

“Just a South African Girl Living in an Alabama World”

Wholeheartedly, compassionately, humbly, selflessly, sacrificially. Love.

I prayed for toiletries and He provided through a friend who purchased an extra shampoo and conditioner during her grocery run. I prayed for fruit and He provided through family who purchased some peaches along the drive to our home. I prayed for a free place to work out and a friend invited me to come along with her. I prayed for rest, and He gave me a good night's sleep. God is faithful.

God has, and continues to minister to me in new ways this month. One way He has really challenged my heart is through our community friend, Evan, whom I like to call #atlantagrizzly.

We were blessed with a surprise weekend away to Panama City Beach, Florida, this past month, and guess who “just so happened to be there?” Our friend Evan “Shaggy” Moon.

You may have heard some of his story before, but here's a little bit of his journey:



“Our friend, Evan, started experiencing numbness in his left arm a year ago. No doctor could determine what was going on, maybe muscle spasms, maybe overuse?? On May 12, 2016, the Brookwood ER discovered a brain tumor and on May 16, 2016, he had emergency brain surgery at Emory Hospital in Atlanta, GA. Evan is living with his parents, in the Stone Mountain, GA, area, while undergoing radiation and chemotherapy, working through intense physical therapy to regain feeling and movement in his left side, and working to regain his speech, writing and reading.”

Evan has had to undergo so much lately, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Yet through it all, he STILL thinks of others first. Evan often sends me prayers in a language native to where I'm from. He says: “I want you to feel at home.”

A very recent prayer received from Evan via text: **“Asseblief God, gee haar rus hierdie aand en praat met haar gees. Gee haar vrede en hou haar in jou arms.”**

Translation: “Please God, give her rest this evening and talk to her spirit. Give her peace and hold her in your arms.”

This is not about me. Here, this man, despite all he is going through, is begging God on behalf of a friend, for rest, for peace, and for the Lord to speak to her spirit. This is not about Evan either.

A word that comes to mind: **SELFLESSNESS**

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is **yours in Christ Jesus...”**

– Philippians 2:1-5

Are these qualities evident in our lives? Do we possess the mind of Christ in our comforting, our affection, or in our day to days? Do we think of others better than ourselves, taking their interests into account before our own?

Without even knowing, our friend Evan challenges me in this area. He notices things that others may not necessarily see at first glance. He cares for others' interests far above his own. He'll literally feed you the food off his plate, with his right arm, knowing it's your favorite food, for you to savor every last bite. He'll hide your favorite treats around your house, at his expense, putting a smile on your face when you need it most. He'll drive around town to help you fix your tire, get up at the crack of dawn to set up a yard sale for children in need, and mow a friend's lawn to love on them even when the sun is beating down on his neck.

“God, I desire this heart. A heart without selfish ambition, a heart of humility, to love tenderly with compassion, thinking of others above myself, having the same attitude as Christ.”

The Lord's response: **“...yours in Christ Jesus.”**

You see, this is not about Evan, and never was. Evan's actions reflected that of the heart of the Father, given to him in Christ Jesus. IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS.

The scripture continues: **“... who though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”** – Philippians 2:6-8

Such a radical love is rare!

Oh how I desire to become less, for Christ to become greater in my life. (John 3:30) That I would walk in complete surrender and obedience to Christ, no matter the cost. That I would love as Christ has loved me. *US*. Wholeheartedly, compassionately, humbly, selflessly, sacrificially.



Can you get on your knees for me?

Pray that God would continue to minister to my spirit and that my life will reflect His heart in all I do... for His Glory.