

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

“You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”

Nehemiah 9:6

The monthly food delivery ministry of Grace Klein Community is a great way to get involved in the community of Birmingham. Toward the end of 2014, shortly after arriving in the states, a friend and I began delivering food boxes to two sweet families.

I’ve really enjoyed connecting with these families and learning their stories. In the face of poverty, my ladies teach me every month through their strength, optimism and hope. This past month God deeply moved my heart through a mom and daughter who helped deliver food boxes for the very first time.

They came across a Grace Klein Community booth a couple of months ago. After hearing about Grace Klein Community’s vision and how the organization equips others to serve throughout Birmingham and across the world, the two ladies were eager to get involved.

*Alice (mom) and *Jasmine (daughter) joined us for the first time, helping prepare the food boxes with fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, desserts and meat. As the morning progressed, excitement in serving continued to grow in the hearts of these two ladies. Sadly, Alice battles with back pain, from a previous military injury, and was disappointed because she wanted to help deliver food boxes to families with her daughter. Her back injury has limited her ability to lift things.

I felt the Lord prompt me, and without hesitation I asked Alice and Jasmine if they would join me on my food delivery route, with the understanding that I would do the lifting. The grins on their faces grew, and the next thing I knew, we were headed to our recipient’s homes, hearts expectant on what God would do.



Our first stop was with *Ms. Sarah, the home of a single lady, once a stranger, now a dear friend. Thanks to Trader Joes, who shared beautiful flowers with Grace Klein Community the night before, we received a giver’s joy as we experienced the smile and tears from handing Ms. Sarah a stunning bunch of yellow roses. She felt like a queen!

While visiting with Ms. Sarah I noticed that Alice and Jasmine seemed “uncomfortable.” They were very quiet. They didn’t say much, or ask any questions. They just observed. At one point I wasn’t sure where they had gone, until I peeped out the window and noticed the ladies sitting in their car. After visiting with Ms. Sarah, I asked Alice if everything was ok.

Alice shared how they had never experienced such poverty before. Their eyes were now open to a whole new world we often prefer to pretend does not exist. They were overwhelmed.

I wasn’t sure how to react at first. In South Africa, such poverty is everywhere. I had seen a lot in my home country and witnessed extreme poverty through outreach travels within Africa. Such situations were not abnormal for me. I’ll admit, I was a little worried that Alice and Jasmine were planning to take off and avoid going to the next home. Was it all a little too much for them?

God had something up His sleeve.

Alice and Jasmine were not allowing the situation to hinder them. When asked if they were joining me to the next home, they were all in. We arrived at the home of beautiful *Ms. Felicia, a single lady in her 70's, who cares for a number of people within her community. She shines Jesus! I always leave her home encouraged. She knows the Word like the back of her hand. Ms. Felicia has previously referred community members to Grace Klein Community who are in need of various things, such as furniture, school supplies, food etc. She has such a heart of compassion for God's people.

I praise the Lord for Ms. Felicia's obedience. She truly connected with Alice and Jasmine. Before I knew it, she began sharing truth, loving the ladies like sisters, and encouraging them in their walks with the Lord. I love how God uses the food delivery ministry for so much more than just food. I don't know where Alice and her daughter stand with Jesus, but after food delivery I walked away knowing that a seed had been planted. God rigged the whole thing. Before leaving Ms. Felicia's home, Jasmine had asked if Ms. Felicia would be willing to come to her school, to visit her church, to hang out with her people. Jasmine was longing for more of what Ms. Felicia held. She was longing for more of Jesus!

Jesus holds the victory! The enemy couldn't stop them at the first home, and through Ms. Felicia, the Lord spoke His truth, love, and compassion over the mom and daughter. Even when circumstances overwhelm us, we do not have to let our fears control us. Jesus helped Alice and Jasmine push through their discomfort to see His children for who they are and to receive the goodness He had planned for our day. Ms. Sarah's financial poverty did not limit her ability to love these strangers, who came along with me, and she did not take an offense when they were afraid. Ms. Felicia's living situation did not create embarrassment or limit her ability to share with boldness and to shine bright as she represents Jesus right where she is!

I had no idea I was in for such a ride, but man, how rewarding! God is so faithful.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." – Isaiah 55:8-9

*Names changed as courtesy



Can you get on your knees for me?

Will you pray for Alice and Jasmine? I plan to reach out to them to join me again for food delivery. Pray for opportunity to share more of Jesus with them. Pray for opportunity to hear their stories, their hurts, and their victories.

On a different note. I have folks challenging me in my gifting with guitar and vocals. Challenging in a positive aspect. Pray that God will continue to grow me in this area. I desire to continue using my giftings for His glory, but have felt somewhat despondent of late.

God surprised me last Sunday and allowed me an opportunity to play with a worship team at a church that partners with Grace Klein Community.