

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

Earlier this month, a friend battling brain cancer shared that he had become frustrated being unable to visit mountainous areas where he could take in the beautiful colors of fall. His illness restricts him from a number of things he wishes to do. However, in the same breath, he mentioned how he had failed to notice the tree God placed in front of his own home that was absolutely radiant with the various shades fall brings. God's beauty, so evident!

The following weekend I explored Moss Rock, a beautiful preserve with such incredible scenery, a great suggestion from my friend. As I walked, I prayed, thanking the Lord for His immaculate creation. The colors of fall were incredible. I was reminded of my friend's longing to see the colors, and I “just so happened” to have my camera with me. I snapped a few pictures, excited to share the photos! Such beauty!

The deep orange colors of the leaves reminded me of the story in Exodus where the Lord spoke to Moses through the burning bush. I found a comfortable place to sit as I opened the scriptures, desperate to hear from the Lord. Why did He draw me to the story of the burning bush? I soaked in each word, to the extent that I even took my shoes off, as Moses did on Holy ground, longing for the Lord to speak to me as He did with Moses.

The following scripture moved my heart: “...**Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord?**” - Exodus 4:11

It was then I felt convicted. We too are His creation! We were **intricately woven together**, designed by a Mighty Creator, **created for His Glory!**

Again and again I have criticized myself, found fault written all over me, “less valued,” with every blemish. Often, each word I utter makes me think “why did I even speak?” Indicated rather clearly in my previous letter, it's no secret that I have struggled with self-worth issues. It's too often on my mind. How prideful? Yes, I have felt, and often still feel this way, and I wondered how many others could relate.

Shyly, I placed the camera on a bench, afraid of what people may think, I leaned up against a tree, smiled, and hit the capture button from my cellphone. I didn't do it for me. I didn't do it for you. I didn't do it for a “fun Facebook profile pic.” I captured the picture for Jesus. He doesn't create junk. His thoughts about us are precious. They cannot be numbered! We are his immaculate creation! We praise Him for we are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Naturally, I would never have shared this picture. I had been toying with the idea for days or maybe God had been asking me to share it. Be encouraged folks to **be bold** in who you are, because you are **created by the Creator of the universe! Perfect. Holy. For His Glory.** When we see beautiful nature, we think “wow, God made this!!” and as we stand in awe, let His creation be our reminder to accept “**God made me stunning too!**”

Can you get on your knees for me?

Will you pray for my family and I as the Christmas season draws nearer? It isn't easy being miles away from family during such celebratory occasions.

Thank you for your continued prayers, love and support!



Stories of His Excellent Kindness...

God is so faithful. He continues to love on our family so well, meeting a need before we have even uttered a word.

In August 2016, after experiencing some dental pain, I visited a dental center eager to discover the problem and find relief. The x-rays revealed I needed a root canal, my third root canal in two years. The x-rays also revealed the need for replacement of two crowns, two fillings, and the removal of my wisdom teeth. With various Grace Klein Community events in the works, I delayed returning to the dental center until the crazy settled. Naturally, the worry of finance for such dental work became a concern. Toward the end of October, I visited a different dental center as a number of folks had shared that their rates were reasonable. After receiving confirmation of the dental surgery needed, in faith, we scheduled the first appointment for the root canal.

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:19

Jehovah Jireh, our provider! What a comfort it is to know the Lord! Throughout my time in the states the Lord continues to provide for unexpected needs, He takes care of every intricate detail, who am I to doubt His hand in such things? We know that God is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine, and with great anticipation I look forward to sharing of the Lord’s continued steadfast love and faithfulness!

God knows when my heart longs for “home,” and the Lord continues to meet my heart right where it’s at. He sent friends to love on me through a traditional South African dessert called “Malva Pudding,” provided South African Ouma Rusk’s as treats to enjoy on a chilly day with a hot cup of coffee or rooibos tea, and even challenged a friend to paint a picture with scripture in both English and Afrikaans, Afrikaans being one of my native languages.

It’s always such an honor when friends adopt us as family. We were invited to a family Thanksgiving meal at our friend’s school this month. Delicious food filled the tables, we could almost taste the goodness while waiting in line to dish our plates. There were so many desserts to choose from, it was so hard to pick one! It’s a joy celebrating with friends and family such special traditions that I never had the pleasure of experiencing in South Africa.

Other friends blessed me with toiletries and oil for my eczema that I had never used before. Actually, as I look at my hands while I type, it’s awesome to see the healing the Lord has already done in respect of my eczema. I am so thankful!



Our family joined friends in the annual Out of the Darkness Walk, a walk supporting research and education programs to prevent suicide and increase national awareness about depression and suicide. It was an honor to walk in memory of my father, who lost his life to suicide in 2001, and stand by a young friend who battles negative thoughts.

Attendees’ hearts revealed deep hurt and longing for loved ones lost, yet determined to show the world there is a Hope. Experiencing such a loss, and seeing how many others are affected by depression and suicide every day, makes me only want to love harder.

How has the Lord loved on you this month? I feel as though often we fail to notice, just as my friend failed to notice the beautiful shades of fall God had on display for him right in front of his own home. I’d like to encourage you to write down those moments where the Lord’s faithfulness is undeniable in your lives. Take the time to notice. Share such stories with your friends, your family, and your children. They’d sure make good bedtime stories! The Lord is good!

“For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” – Psalm 100:5