

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

“A Spanner in the Works...”

“*To put or throw a spanner in the works*” is a British and Australian term meaning something has brought an unexpected change in a “plan,” or prevents a plan or activity from taking place.

Not that we had a plan, but life threw a spanner (change) in the works (our life) this month.

A sweet “spanner.”

Weeks of uninterrupted sleep, late nights, and early mornings takes its toll. Frustration builds, anxiety rises, and we find ourselves responding selfishly to others, only to cause more tension. I’m suddenly worrying about petty things. The laundry load has grown. The dishes keep piling up. People are coming over. The house is in shambles. My neat freak self is a stress ball. We have extra mouths to feed!

Tick Tock... Tick Tock... Tick Tock...

Time “suddenly” became precious.

I have no control...

I’m right where Christ needs me to be.

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.”

– 1 Chronicles 29:11

You read correctly. We have extra mouths to *feed*. God sent a ten month old little girl and her mama our way to love on, invest in, and care for through deeper relationship. Eight people under one roof. Our house is “shrinking!” (Giggle)

I purposely didn’t sugar coat the “hard” moments. It’s a matter of perspective. To me, the hard moments highlight the God moments, reflecting His Glory in our every day.

Our momentary limited sleep, late nights, and hours of baby sobs, result in the little one learning how to sleep through the night, giving her mama much needed rest, and time to focus on her relationship with the Lord and situations causing hard circumstances in her life.

After many days of falling over, bumps and tears, the little one started crawling! Her victory caused me to reflect on our lives. We try, we fall, it hurts, but we get back up and try again. We never stop learning. We never stop growing. And above all, we have a great responsibility, to teach a beautiful child such as this in the ways of the Lord. Crawling in the literal sense, excites me for the day she starts to crawl, walk and run spiritually!

“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:20

I’ll be honest, there have been days where I have woken up beyond frustrated, yet it has been so good for my relationship with the Lord. The difficult days have pushed me to spend some time away, walking and talking with the Lord. Relationships in our home have grown, and continue to grow as we learn to express our thoughts, argue, cry, and laugh together. So this little “spanner” is not so much a “spanner” anymore.

God provided five pallets of pears for Grace Klein Community... and I worried about food? Pears are perfect for homemade baby food, juice, bread etc. *"Carrots, what shall we do with the mounds of carrots provided?"* Make more baby food, juice, and an awesome dish that turns into a "famous" Indian Curry Recipe. Yes, this all happened!

As I write, the words of the song resounding from my earphones impact my heart.

"My love you are worth it all."

I need to say this to the mama who feels like she is invading our space, a familiar thought that crossed my mind when first being invited into the family, and often still does. *"My love you are worth it all."*

My pastor in South Africa often asked a question in his sermons: "Why do we do what we do?" That questions used to wreck my brain, yet now it seems so "simple."

"We love because He first loved us." – 1 John 4:9

We love because He first loved us. What a comfort it is to be truly known, loved, accepted, and valued by the Creator of the universe. Why would we not want to love in return? Loving is hard, risky, and hurts... but when I shift my focus to the ultimate sacrifice of love on the cross, everything seems to fade. *"My love you are worth it all."*

Perhaps the Lord has placed someone on your heart this week. Perhaps He has asked you to step out of your comfort zone, beyond your own capabilities, risk everything, for His Glory, to love on another. Perhaps a little one and her mama appeared on your front porch too. I challenge you to shift your focus from the things of this world (time, stuff, money, food, laundry, errands, etc.) and focus on the one who paid the ultimate sacrifice of love. Anything is possible through Christ (Luke 1:37). Is anything too difficult for Him (Matthew 19:26)?

Let's continue to love, and love well, because HE first loved us.

"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."
– Philippians 2:1-2

Will you get on your knees for me?

Pray for our family and the time that we have to invest in the mama and baby girl that the Lord sent our way. Pray for her heart as she journeys through a difficult time. Pray for continued restoration through Christ in respect of relationships, her faith in the Lord, and revelation of her value in Jesus.

If you feel God leading you to support me financially, all donations can be given online through gracekleincommunity.com/donate OR check donations can be mailed to:

Grace Klein Community, 1678 Montgomery Hwy #104, Birmingham, AL 35216. Include note: Natalie Spronk

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