



The Trackless Sea

JULY 2022

ABBY TRIMBLE

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” –John 12:24

Dear friends,

Greetings this July from rainy Ethiopia. It is kind of funny to me that it is so cold and cloudy here in Africa while most of you are enjoying summertime right now. But I’ve always loved the rain, so I am happy to be right here. This month I’ve been thinking a lot about what it looks like to live a life of surrender. What does it look like to live a life given over to both the life and the death of Jesus in everything you do? To me that looks a lot like choosing to die to yourself and continuing to choose love, not only in the big things, but in every moment of little and in-between. As I invest in learning the culture and language, I have had a lot of opportunities to choose love in the small moments, and I just want to share a bit of what that has looked like lately.

MINISTRY UPDATE

This month has been full of language learning and culture adjustment. Some days it honestly feels like I’m waking up to do the exact same thing I did yesterday. Ministry with a long-term focus requires so much consistency and patience, and I know that I am just at the beginning of that. In the middle of this every-day showing up, Jesus has met me in the sweetest ways. Just last week, after a really long and hard language class, I got into the taxi of an older Muslim man to head back to my house. I was feeling quite worn-out and discouraged that day, and I was about to put in my headphones when this man started asking me questions about Jesus! His heart was so soft (despite the language barrier), and I got to give him the gospel of John that I just “happened” to have with me that day. It was a big encouragement to my heart, even in the weary.



God has also started to open the doors for me to get a bit more involved in ministry. I very recently began teaching art at a home for former street girls, called the Kalkidine Center. It is a very similar program to the residential home I volunteered at when I lived in the States, and it feels like God has been preparing my heart for this for a long time. I am now teaching and getting to know the girls every Friday afternoon.

PERSONAL UPDATE



The first thing I want to share with you is so intertwined between ministry and personal life. The sweet girl that I have been asking for lots of prayer for, who was involved in the sex industry of Addis Ababa when I first met her, is doing so well. We have been reading the Bible together, and about three weeks ago she made a decision to follow Jesus! She is also no longer involved in the same industry and is receiving quality business training from a local NGO. This is a HUGE answer to pray, and so personal to my heart, because not only is she a part of the ministry God has entrusted to me, she is my friend and I love her. And now she is also a friend of Jesus, thank you so very much for praying.



Another big answer to prayer is that I officially have a wonderful mentor here. I have been praying so much for God to help me find the right person, and He always comes through when we are patient, my friends. This lovely friend has not only been living and working in Ethiopia for a long time, she has also run a ministry that works with young women who have experienced deep trauma, which is exactly where my heart is, ministry-wise. I am so excited and blessed to have her walking with me in this season.



Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for the young lady that I am working with who just gave her heart to Jesus. Pray for a deep desire to know Him, and for lots of other people to come around her as well to disciple her and love her.
- Pray for my brain, as always, to continue pushing in language learning and to soak up lots of new things even when I feel like I am at max capacity. I need lots of grace.
- Please pray for me as I serve at the Kalkidine Center. I am looking forward to teaching and walking with these girls, but there is still so much for me to learn and figure out. Pray for wisdom for me, and real, deep connection with the girls, even as they are coming from some of the hardest places.

Thank you, as always, for being a big part of this journey through your prayers, support, and love. It is more than worth it to continue surrendering to both the life and death of Jesus.

He is for you always,

- Abby Trimble

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