

Mission Partner: Angleena Keizer



March 2015

Staying connected!

For those who are not aware, unfortunately I was unable to commence training in January at All Nations College, as was originally planned. The World Church Relations felt, as a duty of care, that I was not fully fit enough after the removal of my gallbladder. Therefore my training was delayed until the summer term, starting on the 16th April. Initially this felt like a blow, that I was not expecting or hoped for. However on reflection it was the right decision, giving me time to fully recuperate, I am delighted to say that I am now fully back to good health and looking forward to being able to start the En Route course, as part of my preparation for serving in Sri Lanka.

In the meantime I have continued to stay with Mum in Lancashire. This has given me the opportunity to reconnect with my home church and spend time in the fellowship of believers, and attend bible studies. In the early weeks I undertook the Daniel fast, I would like to say as a spiritual discipline, but the truth was, to detox from all the medications I had received. The benefit of the fast however, became quickly apparent, as I was reconnected to the Lord and His word in a very special way. Reminding me how important a spiritual discipline fasting is.

We are in the season of lent, a time many use for reflection, preparation and fasting, as we recall the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion. I have been reflecting on how well Jesus prepared those who were His followers and what it meant to follow Him. He prepared them for what was to come, regarding his betrayal, his arrest and ultimately His death and resurrection. Two accounts of his preparation stand out. The first is the example Jesus gave the disciples by washing their feet and His words "you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14) you will be blessed if you do! The other is His teaching from the image of the vine and the branches (John 15) Jesus calls his disciples to abide in Him, "remain in me, and I will remain in you" he states. As a result of abiding in Him, it will produce much fruit that brings God glory. Both of these accounts seem to me amongst other things about staying connected. The disciples and ourselves are reminded to stay connected and abide in Christ and to follow His example of washing others feet. That means relationships and listening to stories that may cause us to feel uncomfortable in the listening and responding!

Recently I attended the World Church Forum, the theme was Belonging Together. There were presentations and stories from around the country from Chaplains ministering to Nigerian, Zimbabwean, Fijian and Tonga Fellowships. There were presentations from partnership Co-ordinators for Africa Europe, Asia-Pacific, Caribbean and the Americas. Also a presentation from Methodist Women in Britain. Yesterday I had the privilege of listening to the Rev Ebenezer Joseph, the General Secretary of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka during his visit to Methodist House. Both of these events were truly inspiring as I listened to followers of Christ share their stories, that were both challenging and inspiring.

Just as the World Church Relations had a duty of care towards me, so too, do we have a duty of care towards each other and those whom we meet. A World Mission Conference about the Pacific and on the theme: Voice Still Small? will be held on the 29-31st May. It will be an opportunity to explore Pacific culture, hear and join in stories and music, investigate Pacific theology, and singers from the Pacific to challenge and inspire you. Something for all! Why not check out the www.mwm.org.uk for more details.

I will endeavour to keep you updated and stay connected as together we seek to bear fruit in the kingdom of God for His glory.

Prayer points please:

1. That I may listen for the still small voice of God and His preparation over the next few weeks before attending All Nations College.
2. To be open to those who attend the multi national college, and have the time to hear other voices and learn from people from different cultures and experiences.
3. Please pray for the ability to learn a new language!
4. For leaving behind the familiar for the unfamiliar

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, may we stay connected as I truly appreciate you and all you do in Christ's name and for His glory.

Love Angleena



