

A Trip Through Maturity

THROUGH AN UNEXPECTED INCIDENT I HAD IN EUROPE THIS FALL, I LEARNED ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SPIRITUALLY MATURE. DURING A BACKPACKING TRIP THROUGH SOUTHERN FRANCE, I AND THREE OTHER COMPANIONS HAD ALL OUR POSSESSIONS STOLEN FROM OUR RENTAL CAR. WE HAD NOTHING, NOT EVEN TICKETS BACK TO THE U.S.. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS FAR FROM HOME WITH NOTHING AND NO ONE TO TURN TO EXCEPT GOD.

IMMEDIATELY GOD CONNECTED US WITH THE LACOMBE FAMILY WHO TOOK US INTO THEIR HOME. THIS FAMILY TRUSTED GOD ENOUGH TO OPEN UP THEIR HOUSE TO FOUR AMERICAN KIDS WHOM THEY HAD NEVER MET. THEY SHOWED US LOVE OUT OF THEIR LOVE FOR CHRIST AND FOR NO OTHER REASON. THE NEXT DAY WE ATTENDED CHURCH WITH THE LACOMBES. MANY FAMILIES OFFERED US PLACES TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT AND OTHER PROVISIONS. WHAT I SAW FROM FAMILIES LIKE THE LACOMBES IS THAT MATURITY IS BEING SECURE IN ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST, AND OUT OF THAT SECURITY COMES AN ABILITY TO GIVE WITHOUT QUESTION OR FEAR OF THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED. MATURITY IN CHRIST IS THE ABILITY TO SIMPLY OBEY HIM.

GOD SHOWED ME DURING THE TRIP THAT MY PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL, AND PERSONAL SECURITY RESTED NOT ON HOW WELL I WAS GOING TO PROVIDE FOR MYSELF, BUT RATHER IN HIS POWER. IN TIMES WHEN I WONDERED IF WE WERE GOING TO GO HOMELESS IN EUROPE, GOD ENABLED ME TO SEE OTHER HOMELESS PEOPLE THE WAY HE SEES THEM - AS DEARLY LOVED CHILDREN.



Linnea Londborg

SERVICE AND MATURITY



THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS HAS BEEN A REAL JOY FOR ME. GOD HAS GIVEN ME A LOVE FOR THEM THAT IS FAR BEYOND MY OWN HUMAN CAPABILITIES. WHEN I SEE EVIDENCE OF CHRIST'S WORK IN THEIR LIVES, IT GIVES ME FULFILLMENT BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS. THIS EXPERIENCE HAS ENERGIZED ME LIKE NOTHING ELSE HAS DONE.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN PEOPLE BEFORE WHO ARE SO OPEN AND EAGER TO LEARN ABOUT GOD, AND I CANNOT HELP BUT RESPOND TO THEIR NEEDS.



THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I STRUGGLE WITH THE FEELING OF BEING DRAWN IN SEVERAL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE, KNOWING I CAN'T DO OTHER THINGS THAT ALSO SEEM IMPORTANT, BUT GOD HAS GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH TO KEEP FOCUSED ON THE TASK HE HAS FOR ME TO DO. ALTHOUGH I HAVE LOTS TO LEARN, I BELIEVE GOD IS WORKING ON ME, SEEKING TO MATURE ME IN MY FAITH AND SERVICE FOR HIM. I HAVE ALSO GROWN IN UNDERSTANDING MY NEED TO TOTALLY TRUST CHRIST FOR HIS WORK IN THEIR LIVES, AND IN MINE. ALTHOUGH I STRUGGLE WITH IMPATIENCE, IN THIS WORK I AM LEARNING TO WAIT FOR GOD'S TIMING. WE CANNOT RUSH GOD.



I ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY. THOSE WHO RECEIVE CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOR WILL HAVE AN INFLUENCE NOT ONLY WHILE THEY ARE HERE, BUT ALSO IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE WHEN THEY RETURN. MAY GOD RECEIVE ALL THE GLORY!

AUDREY SOLLIE

MATURITY REVOLUTIONIZING *Worship*

MY HEART MY SOUL

SO HOW MUCH DOES OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY AFFECT OUR WORSHIP?

WAYNE DANIELSON, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE POST COLLEGE STUDENTS, WILL TELL YOU, THAT WORSHIP AND MATURITY HEAVILY AFFECT EACH OTHER.

FIRST WORD

AS OUR WALK WITH GOD GOES LONGER AND DEEPER, OUR WORSHIP OF HIM GROWS STRONGER AND BECOMES PERSONAL. WORSHIP BECOMES THE PRIMARY DESIRE IN OUR LIFE. IT IS “THE” REASON WE COME TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY, TO WORSHIP HIM.

NO LONGER DO WE JUST “SING” THE SONG, BUT SEEK TO ENGAGE OUR MIND, HEART AND WILL WHERE THE SPIRIT LEADS. ANYTHING LESS LEAVES AN EMPTINESS AS WE GO OUT THE DOOR.

WAYNE DANIELSON

MY MIND MY STRENGTH

OPPORTUNITY & MATURITY

DEE HUANCA

THE CHINESE WORD FOR CRISIS IS FORMED WITH TWO CHARACTERS: DANGER PLUS OPPORTUNITY. SINCE MY SISTER, BEA, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH MULTIPLE MYELOMA IN AUGUST AND IS NOW LIVING WITH DAVID AND ME, THE MEANING OF CRISIS HAS BECOME VERY REAL TO ME. IT IS THE CONSTANT LOOMING THOUGHT OF “WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME? AND “HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GO INTO REMISSION?” OR “WILL REMISSION OCCUR?” AMID THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE, THE ANSWER COMES FROM GOD. “I AM IN CONTROL.” GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR ALL OUR NEEDS. HE HAS GIVEN US STRENGTH, WISDOM, AND ENDURANCE. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PEOPLE ARE PRAYING WITH DAVID AND ME DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME IS COMFORTING. INITIALLY IT FELT RISKY TO BE TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON GOD, BUT NOW IT IS VERY REASSURING TO KNOW THAT I DO NOT NEED TO WORRY OR FRET BECAUSE HE HAS PROMISED THAT HE WILL NEVER LEAVE ME NOR FORSAKE ME. HE IS MY COMFORTER. MY DEPENDENCE HAS EXTENDED TO MY HUSBAND, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. THE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN TAKING RISKS TO ASK FOR HELP AND FINDING THAT I AM DEVELOPING SOME WONDERFUL CARING RELATIONSHIPS. THIS IS A NEW PHASE OF MY LIFE JOURNEY. ALTHOUGH IT IS HARD AT TIMES, I APPRECIATE MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD, MY HUSBAND, MY SISTER, MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. I NOW UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT JESUS’ COMMAND, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

