

Best Times South Africa Edition

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Nala suggested that this month we talk about courage in our newsletter. I asked her if she knew the meaning of courage. "Courage is being bold as you tell people about Jesus. You have to have lots of strength to do what God has called you to do," Wise words expressed from my new 2nd grader. I really appreciated her idea this month because it reminds me of the courage needed to trust God and follow the example of Nala and not to be afraid.

At my summer missions training, I worked on a personal development plan. My trainer told me to think in this way...If I do not address "____," my spiritual, personal and ministry growth will be hindered.

Over the years, I have learned that I love vision and dreams of what may be; however, I am not very good at executing my plans and seeing them to completion. I have a vision of where I would like to be as an individual, but I must take small steps to get there and not fear the process.

As we make preparations for South Africa, our children's passports needed to be renewed. Last week, I put on my list to complete this task before the end of August. Friday, August 30, was my due date. On the night of the 29th, I felt incredibly nervous because Friday was looming. Leon and I scheduled to pick our kids up early from school. I also researched on the internet for which post office we could go to that received walk-ins.

Leon parked at the elementary school to pull our children out of school early. I began to feel anxious and asked Leon to fetch Leon II, Noel and Nala. Leon and the kids entered into the minivan and we proceeded to the nearby post office. Upon arriving at the facility, I soon discovered I received misinformation. I was handed a new list of passport locations. We ventured to our next destination but my reliance on GPS led me astray. With only five minutes before closing, the clerk shared the couple she was currently serving would be her last of the day. I sat down fearful and disappointed. God, do you really want us to return to South Africa? I shared with Leon I needed a little more time to sit and pout. I was afraid, but I sang to myself "It is Well with My Soul" and got up. Looking at the list, there was one more place to go. It closed in 20 minutes, and we were 19 minutes away. As my husband drove he shared the Lord must have someone for us to meet at this place. So we prayed...Lord help us reach this office in time.

I am glad to announce we were able to submit the kids' passports that day. I overcame fear that paralyzed me, and made it to the divine appointment the Lord had for us. Leon encouraged a man who was giving up on God because his brother died. God is continuing to develop me for our return to South Africa. After this experience I can add to Nala's definition, we get courage from the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Melanie Best