

June/July 2007 Prayer Newsletter - CALL TO PRAYER - Andrea Herman

Psalm 40:5 Many oh Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

I sure wish I was better at journaling. It would help remind me of God's amazing faithfulness and provision. Though I know I am forgetting many of the details, I remember arriving home in total awe of how good God is. He removed obstacle after obstacle (on both sides of the ocean) that stood between me and a peaceful vacation with my family. Some of the things He did were huge, others were more subtle, but all together, they were a great gift, and I am very thankful.

I think it would do me good to keep a running list somewhere in my home that I would see often, reminding me of all the things God has done to demonstrate His faithfulness, protection and provision. I know it would soon need to expand from a single sheet to a notebook, because I have already experienced a few days that would take up at least half a page each. I also think that list would come in handy on the days when it feels like nothing is working, or I can't communicate, or I'm sick, or just plain discouraged. Do you ever have days like that?

Coming back to Africa after this vacation feels a little like starting a new year, so here is one of my "new year in Africa" resolutions. One of things I want to work on is trusting God more in the little things. I usually figure I can take care of the little things myself, and thus leave God out of it (the situation with my delayed furniture is a fine example).

I have met some amazing people since I arrived in West Africa, but the ones that I have the most respect for are the ones who trust God for EVERYTHING. How comfortable would you feel hosting a team of 6-10 strangers from the US for a 1-2 week trip out to numerous remote villages where you didn't know anyone, and where you don't have the first clue where you were going to sleep, or eat, or find drinkable water while you were traveling, not to mention there might be a language barrier, so communicating your needs might be a whole different challenge? You're thinking, "Crazy", aren't you? If she wasn't trusting in God it would be, but that's not the case.

The missionary who does this on a regular basis has BIG faith in our BIG God. And guess what? God has ALWAYS supplied her needs and the needs of the teams with whom she travels, and she's been doing this for many years. I would love to be ready to dive in like this dear missionary does, but I'm admitting to you that I'm not there yet. I need to start practicing trusting God in the little things, and I believe He can bring me to that point. He can do the same for you if you're up for a little adventure. ☺

Here are a few verses from God's Word for anyone who feels tired or stressed, or burned out on the "little things" in life. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30) What kind of stress or burden would you like to give God to take care of for you? Do you have a lot of "little things" that are taking up your time and energy? I invite you to take advantage of God's generous invitation. The only thing you have to lose is some unwanted stress. ☺

Please join me in thanking God for:

-The arrival of my furniture before I left in June! Much was badly damaged during the trip, but God provided a carpenter who repaired and refinished everything in a single day! A HUGE miracle.

-Helping me get all the little details that needed to be done, taken care of before I left.

-Good travels: virtually no back pain, and all my lost luggage was found! ☺

-A wonderful time with my family & friends, meeting my brand new nephew, Ty, being in Pam & Kevin's wedding in Colorado, worshipping with my church family at Family of Christ in MN, meeting missionaries from around the world at our Ablaze! Summit in Texas, and seeing my Youth Encounter teammate, Ronald (who's from Uganda, East Africa) for the first time in 5 years while he was visiting the US! It was a great month. ☺

-Receiving a very generous grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League that supports the work I'm doing. Thank you LWML!!!

Please join me in asking God to provide:

-Wisdom in handling the details of changing the roles of my language helpers in Guinea.

-Time & discipline for me to set aside daily, focused time to pray for the Maninka people.

-Willingness to trust Him in the big and small details of life.

-Wisdom to know when to start intensive language training out in the village.

-Continued health & energy: physical, emotional and spiritual.

-Plenty of restful sleep so I can stay healthy.

-Good balance between work and play so I don't burn myself out.

-Discipline to get into a routine for regular exercise now that temps have dropped.

-A memory boost so that I can remember all the Maninka words I learned before I left (I have forgotten a LOT).

-A good transition back to Guinea, where I can feel settled and really invest myself in those with whom I live and work.

-Strong bonds and close, healthy relationships with Maninka women.

-a joyful heart and a positive attitude (in spite of the delays and frustrations that are part of living in Guinea).



Ty Michael, the newest addition to the family



Hiking at Loveland Pass in Colorado while on vacation in July