

ZAMBIA 2015

Wonder is defined by Webster as to have interest in knowing or learning something. Have you ever wondered why God places a certain person next to you on the airplane? William was seated next to Shou, a Chinese student at USC, on one of our flights. After introducing himself, he told her that he wanted to give her a gift and presented her with a Gideon New Testament. She told him that she is an atheist and doesn't believe there is a God. He asked her if she believed there was an artist when she saw a painting. She said, "Of course." He pointed out the window at the amazing sunrise and told her that God is the artist and painted that sunrise. He proceeded to tell her that he didn't know why God called him to go on this mission trip, to leave his wife and children but perhaps it was just for her; to tell her that yes, there is a God who sent His Son to die for our sins. William faithfully gave a New Testament to a Hindu woman and everyone else that God placed next to him.



Occasionally, God allows a delay and we wonder why. Several of us including our two children's VBS teachers went to see the site of two more churches to be built and were only supposed to be gone for three hours, two hours before classes started. In reality, we arrived almost three hours AFTER they started. Have you ever wondered why God made it clear that you were to be on a mission trip or why you decided to read the lesson that morning even though you were in charge of crafts? Tammy realized she was the only one left to teach the children's lesson so before she started teaching them about how Jesus healed the blind man, she asked them who is Jesus? Not one child raised a hand or acknowledged that they had heard of Jesus. Tammy started at the beginning of who Jesus is and what He did for everyone of us. These children stayed after school and heard the most important story they will ever hear. God had a wonderful purpose for Tammy. I wonder if that is why she made the trip to Zambia.



Not everything we ask for comes immediately even when we pray and ask God for His will to be done. We needed an additional truck to haul all of our suitcases loaded with supplies to Mulamfu so we spent time in prayer the night before. Ken asked his neighbor, the truck was broken; he asked another, it was in use. Everyone had a valid excuse and just as Ken was giving up and returning home, he saw one, flagged him down and asked if he was for hire. He said yes, agreed to take our supplies and came to load the suitcases. We were all thrilled to hear that his name was Best. We wonder why God doesn't answer on our time but He has the Best for us.



Doing exactly what the Holy Spirit instructs is always the best even if we wonder why. McCree was studying the lesson she had prepared on prayer for the teen girls when two boys came up. She asked them their names but they just did a motion like they wanted a drink and she confirmed, yes, they wanted a drink of water. She contemplated the outcome if she gave them water and children came from everywhere wanting water but the Holy Spirit said, "Give them water". She obeyed, gave them water and they were on their way. Again, she heard the still small voice say, "Tell them I AM the Living Water." She prepared a new lesson for the teen girls on the woman at the well and John, the Baptist; all pointing to Jesus, the Living Water. The girls from school never came again. I wonder if they would have ever heard the gospel if she had not obeyed.



Eating lots of peanut butter and sleeping in a tent is not my idea of a great time; however, seeing people stand in the cold mesmerized by the story of Jesus, asking Him to forgive their sins then following Him in believers baptism is my idea of a wonderful mission trip. It had nothing to do with me but all about Jesus. Ten men walked to Decision's (the pastor in charge of the conference) home and told him that the men taught Truth and their lives would never be the same. To God be the Glory!



Roaring waters, hippos, elephants and lions were just a few of the amazing wonders that we experienced in Zambia but the greatest wonder was when 30 people came forward and became new creatures in Christ. I'll never comprehend the Wonder of Jesus but I'm so thankful He created us and asked us to count the cost to be His disciples. I think it is absolutely worth it! Thank you for your prayers and enabling me to go. Please pray as six of us head to Brazil July 9-21.



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