

Ashleigh Gibb

Prayer letter, June 2018

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This prayer letter comes from having spent nearly a year and a half in Thailand. This quite frankly blows my mind. It's fair to say that Bangkok is my home. Of course, the UK will always resonate as home but Thailand has consumed my heart and continues to do so day by day. That's not to say that the usual frustrations don't pop up now and again, on the nights that I decide to jump in a taxi and find myself sat in Bangkok traffic for 2 hours, I will say that I cannot be held responsible for the thoughts that occur in my mind and sometimes escape from my mouth! The struggle is well and truly real.

Over the time that I have spent in Thailand one thing is most definitely for sure, God has been working in my heart, he's been shaping it, moulding it, transforming it, breaking it, healing it and calling it. There is not a moment that passes me by where some change hasn't taken place. God continues to speak to my heart and gives me more and more strength to fight for social justice.

Back in March I was beautifully blessed with a trip to Hillsong Women's Colour conference. Whilst I was there I listened to my favourite speaker Christine Caine preach on Social Justice. She is the founder and CEO of A21, a ministry working with men, woman and children whom have become victims of trafficking. Obviously, this was going to capture my heart. After listening to her and during a time of worship I had a beautiful moment with God. He asked me how far I was willing to go with this, how much was I willing to give? I told him he could have it all, I was his for this cause. I don't wish for any rock to be left unturned, every woman he leads me to I want to love in the absolute best way that I can.

As always life in the ministry world continues to whirl past me at lightning speed. There is never a dull moment. Of course it is still important to find that healthy balance between working hard and finding a time where we rest, sleep and let God be God. Knowing where to draw that line has always been a difficulty in my life and I believe for most people when you are fighting for something you are so dearly passionate about.

The partner organisation BMS has seconded me to, Nightlight, was injected with a burst of electrifying energy as we had another YWAM team come to work with us. It truly has been a special 6 weeks and as I write this their time comes to an end. They have come on board with a host of talents and gifts that have brought a fresh perspective to the ministry. They have played live music in Citylight Café, produced some outstanding photography, lent us a hand at our beauty shop and brought beautiful personalities to love and encourage us on this journey. I am so grateful that they have given up their time for us and from the bottom of my heart I do hope that our paths cross again. I know in myself it's going to be an emotional goodbye as we part ways.

Isn't it funny that when we are most in need God has a habit of wanting to bless us? God blessed our ministry in the way of YWAM. Nightlight has been incredibly busy during this season. We currently have around 15 international women in our care with many more in the Immigration detention centre. God has opened these doors and provided us with the help we need to be able to deal with this. We continue to love, we continue to fight in the best way that we can.



The wonderful YWAM Australia team



Empowering women to empower others! Prepping the Thai ladies to teach the international women

Throughout May I have had the beautiful opportunity to train some of the African women in all things coffee. I have trained them on the coffee machine and how to create their favourite drink, it's been a wonderful opportunity to get to know them and their hearts. One woman *Diane picked up the training at such a quick pace, she was straight in and wanted to learn. She had a strength and a determination that blew me away. After our session we got to sit down together over two steaming cups of coffee and discussed the future. She said that in Tanzania there was a distinct lack of coffee shops. I told her that there was no reason that if she wanted to start one then she could. She was speechless. She said that she didn't have any skills and there was no way that she would have the potential. I told her what I saw. I told her that the girl sat in front of me was beautiful

and passionate, I told her I saw determination and that there was no reason on this earth that God couldn't release the potential that was in her. This brings me to the verse in Proverbs 31 "She is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs at the future." This is what I saw in front of me and I needed her to know this. She continues to come in for her training sessions with a smile on her face and a readiness to learn.

I suppose it is appropriate to finish this letter by informing you of my home assignment to the UK. It has been arranged that I will be gracing you all with my presence towards the end of October. I am stunned that this is coming around in 5 months. Please someone tell me where the time went? I cannot even begin to fathom in my mind how this experience is going to feel. It's going to be a little battle of in my mind of the true meaning of home and where my heart lies. One thing I am sure of is my excitement for touring around the various churches that have been a constant support to me during this first term overseas. For many of you I have been communicating via means of skype of and email and now finally I will get to meet you all in person. I am going to be able to express my love and gratitude in the flesh and I couldn't be any happier about that. I have some close friends back in the UK whom I love with my whole heart and I cannot wait to throw my arms around them, to drink good coffee with them, to cry with them to talk vision and heart with them and to quite simply do nothing with them. This excitement is enough to make me want to pop back for a visit and leave this beautifully messy place I call home.

Ashleigh

If you would like to support Ashleigh by prayer and committed regular giving, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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