

Dear faithful friends,

I know I have just written, but I feel I need to write again :-) I have just got back from the CMA field forum and wanted to just give you an update on that! The quick and short version is that it was fantastic in so many different ways and on so many different levels. BUT, you know me and I cannot just leave it at that :-)

I was a little sad that I was told I could not take the girls with me, but at the same time was looking forward to having a bit of a break. As I have shared, most people have 9 months to prepare themselves for children and I had 2 or so days. I have not really been away from them at all since they moved in back in February. I did have a week in Penang, but because of the circumstances surrounding that trip, it was not necessarily a refreshing break :-) Anyway, I packed my things and had one of the older Bykota girls and one care giver come to my apartment for the week. Linda had not been feeling too well over the weekend, but was a bit better by the time I left. She was still eating breakfast when it was time to go and I bent down to give her a kiss on the forehead~ she burst into tears :(When I finally got her calmed down some, I picked up Gina to give her a kiss good-bye~ she burst into tears, then I almost burst into tears! I actually was not able to get Gina to calm down too much and Chatreah actually had to "peel" her off and out of my arms :-) It was so hard to leave listening to both of them cry, as I walked down the stairs. I was thinking, "What in the world am I doing?! I don't even know the people I am going on this retreat with!!" Of course, one of the points in going was to get to know the CMA team here :) The other thought that crossed my mind was, "How in the world am I going to leave in November?!" I still do not have that one answered :(

Anyway, I arrived at the CAMA office and was immediately met by one of the singles working here. She promptly introduced me to a few others, but not everyone. We had about a 4/5 hour bus ride before arriving at our destination. Kandi sat with me and we chatted the whole way. Upon arriving at the hotel, I finally was able to meet Maria, whom I had had lots of e-mails back and forth with. After meeting my roommate for the week, I got settled. Later on, many people asked me if I was part of the Bridgeway team, who had come from Colorado to minister to us and the children. You all know my answer to THAT question :-) For dinner, I ended up sitting with two members of that team...the Pastor (Danny) and the worship leader (Jacob). Little did I know just how much impact these two men of God would have on my heart and life throughout the week!

I went on this retreat needing and longing to hear from God; to be renewed and refreshed. As I have shared and you have heard my heart, it is HARD living here. I was dried up and so desperately in need of something. I went with the cry of my heart pleading that God would meet me and flood over me once again. I wanted Him to bring a sense of renewal; to refresh and encourage my heart. I needed SOMETHING to happen. I decided to NOT take my computer because I knew it would simply be a distraction; I needed something to give...something had to change or I was not going to make it to Nov 21st in one piece! The first night, we were lead in a time of singing in worship and it was refreshing. It was good to be in a room of all English speakers and for one song to flow

so effortlessly from one to the next. Then Danny was "on." He shared a bit of his testimony so we could get to know him a bit better. One thing I remember him repeating over and over, not just this evening, was that sometimes we just gotta pray it through...pray until something happens and I decided that that was EXACTLY what I needed to do during the week. I HAD to HAVE SOMETHING change!

The second full day, I would have a bit longer of a break than the rest of the CMA team because they were doing business type things and since I am not part of the...well, not exactly sure how to say it...I am part of the CMA team here in Cambodia, but since I am with MM, I am different and not necessarily a part of the team...I am, but not exactly...it's complicated :) Anyway, they were doing things that I did not need to be a part of, so I had decided I was going to use that time to pray it through and pray til something happened. Oh, how refreshing and good that time with God was. He began to refill/refresh/renew me. Really, there are no words to describe my time with Him, other than that was just the start!!

Most of you know how much I love to sing. Once I "found" a freedom in worship, singing most definitely became a part of my own personal quiet times with God...it was not just for Sunday mornings anymore. As I have found myself drying up, the song had long left. During the time with God, shared in the previous paragraph, I received my song back :-) I began to weep before His throne as I worshiped our great God, in the quietness of my hotel room and it was good. Then the next morning, as Jacob led us in worship, He led us to the Throne of God in such a way, that once again, God, in His Spirit washed over me and there was freedom once again. Our God is good! And again, there are just no words to describe just how great and mighty and powerful the God we serve is! He is the Name above all Names, the Great I AM. He is HOLY and we are to bow down before Him and worship Him in His holiness. Oh how worthy He is to be worshiped and adored....

BUT, God still was not done :-) You ever notice that when you struggle, Satan attacks all the more and things you thought you had dealt with and maybe even conquered, he throws back in your face?!? Well, throughout the last months, he has done just that. I have felt beaten down, dried up and discouraged, as it has not been just hard living here, but things I have struggled with and I thought I was "doing ok with" were becoming huge issues again. I am not 100% sure how to share this part, but... I definitely had NO INTENTION of sharing any of it with Danny!! I mean, why would I?!?! I barely know him~he is a man~he is a pastor~I was not about to open my heart THAT much! God in His sovereignty, allowed Danny to be so sensitive to the Spirit and he challenged me to stop hanging on, to stop beating myself up and to open my heart in order to deal with the struggles. With God's help, through the Spirit who lives within both Danny and I, I was able to deal with those struggles and again have found a refreshment and cleansing like I longed for and have waited for, for so very very long. I still a bit amazed and know I am very humbled by the fact that Danny now knows what he knows about me, but I also know I can trust him with it. I also know that when God brings me to his mind, I will have someone who can pray very specifically. Have I mentioned that God is good?!?!?

I know this has gotten to be a long letter, but I just don't think I could have cut anything. I also hope that as you have read, you have been encouraged. We serve a Great God and He is so very good. I wanted/needed to proclaim His greatness today, not just in my own personal time with Him, but to you, those who faithfully love, support and pray for me.

God is sooooo good and I want to shout His Name from the mountaintops. Bow down and worship Him for He is worthy. No matter how you feel or what your circumstances, He continues to be worthy...I know these things in my heart once again, thanks be to Him!! If you know these things in your head, but your heart is having a hard time, hang on with your head until your heart gets it again. Pray it through; pray until something happens. It is not always easy and bringing things into the light sure is not easy, but it is only in THE LIGHT that things will change. Remember the things God has already done and keep hanging on... I now know I can make it until Nov 21st :-)

Rejoicing in Him,
Heather

PS...and when I got "home", I got two gigantic hugs :-)