



Esther Mueller's Update from serving with Youth With A Mission August 11, 2015

Hello,

I hope you are doing well! What are three things you are thankful for from your past week? I am thankful for the beauty of the green foliage covering North Carolina's rolling hills, seeing friends and family, and hearing southern accents.

As you might guess I am back in North Carolina in the USA on furlough after being away for about two years. I have completed my Bible course with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Alberta, Canada and fulfilled my commitment of serving with YWAM in Vancouver, Canada. Read below to find out what I have been doing in the USA and what I am considering next in Youth With A Mission (YWAM).

God's plan for rest

For the past month I have been blessed with the opportunity to take a break from studies and ministry responsibilities to focus on being rejuvenated which can be called a furlough. I wanted to intentionally apply God's command for creation to live with a rhythm of rest from work. As I studied the Old Testament during my Bible course I was surprised to observe how often God referred to the importance of taking a day of rest or a Sabbath.

These times of rest give us a reprieve from regular activities and remind us to put our trust in God as our provider and sustainer. It also gives us time to quiet our minds and refocus on God. I think sometimes it is easier to stay busy so that we can convince ourselves that we do not have time to address the condition of our heart, mind, body and spirit by refocusing on God through rest. At times this past month I found myself a bit resistant to laying my heart bare to God while quieting my mind through rest because I knew I was feeling some worries and fears about the future that I was resistant to face. As I have relented to taking time daily and significant time once a week to rest in God and focus on him he is addressing my fears which is helping me to trust God as my provider each day.

What are your thoughts about rest? What ways may God be inviting you to rest in this season of your life? How would you like to respond to God's invitation to rest?

What is next with Youth With A Mission (YWAM)?

At this point I am considering a few options for my next steps. I have completed my time serving with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Vancouver, Canada and I believe God is directing me to pursue a different next step so I will not be rejoining the team in Vancouver, Canada.

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) has teams all over the world so there are many places I could serve and a plethora of ways that I could serve. Currently I am in contact with two different YWAM locations, in Central Asia and eastern Europe, about the possibility of serving with their teams. If I went to Central Asia I would focus on learning language and culture as well as serving the team in areas of need. In eastern Europe I would learn the local language and serve with a Bible teaching team.

I had significant skype meetings with these locations a few days ago and am processing the information with people and God to discern my next steps.

Would you pray with me as I seek God's direction for what to pursue in this next season? As I am processing with God I am finding pros and cons to each choice and I am trying to discern what God wants me to focus on in this coming season of life. Thank you for your prayers!

Praises:

- graduating my Bible course with Youth With A Mission (YWAM)!!
- visiting family in Minneapolis, Minnesota and North Carolina
- enjoying the familiarity of life in southern USA: sweet tea, corn bread, southern hospitality, and warm weather...it feels like home

Prayer Requests:

- direction for my next steps
- wisdom to communicate about my time with YWAM to friends and family
- for creative ways to bless others with the Bible training I have received

Thank you so much for your continued partnership through prayer, finances and relationship that allows me to serve God in Youth With A Mission (YWAM)! You are such a blessing to me.

Please let me know if there is any way I can pray for you. My address and e-mail address are on the bottom of this page.

Blessings,
Esther

Donation Information:

For a tax-deductible donation **American checks** can be made out to "Main Street UMC" with "Esther Mueller" in the memo and can be mailed to:
Main St UMC
306 South Main St
Kernersville, NC 27284



(Photo above: My Bible school students sitting on the front row and staff on the back row dressed up for our graduation dinner)

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