

Ashley Hilde's Prayer Letter

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From Course to Commission

“Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.” Psalm 25:4-5

Dear Friends and Family,

When I responded to the Lord's call to the mission field in Africa, I had no idea what to expect. Just to begin with, Africa is a very large continent- the United States, China, and India could all fit into the continent with plenty of room to spare! Secondly I wondered, “How should I prepare for such a task?” I trusted the Lord to provide the training I would need to be effective, and the vision to see His direction.



Lion's Head from the top of the castle.

Called

The Lord clearly lead me to Frontline Fellowship, a mission dedicated “to further the cause of world evangelization by missionary outreach to resistant or neglected areas... and to encourage and mobilize more Christians into missions by providing prayer information, intensive training programs and field outreach opportunities for suitable and interested Christians.”

Culture Shock

I arrived in Cape Town, South Africa on the 17th of June. I spent the first week learning how the mission operated, helping Frontline prepare for the upcoming Biblical Worldview Seminar and Great Commission Course, and overcoming culture shock (What do you mean there isn't any Dr. Pepper in Africa?!)

Course

On the 22nd of June, we headed out to Simonstown on the Cape peninsula for the **Biblical Worldview Summit**. The Summit was attended by over 60 people from South Africa, the Congo, Zambia, Nigeria, Botswana, and the USA. Throughout the Summit I was able to attend a variety of lectures on Biblical worldview, reclaiming nations for Christ, and evangelism. I also went on my first township outreach to Masiphumelele where we distributed Gospel literature in the Xhosa



Each night we had Bible Drills and speaking competitions.



Looking for a great place to distribute literature? How about the train station at rush hour!

and Afrikaans languages and did one-on-one evangelism. Townships are very poor, government subsidized living areas in which thousands of people are crammed together in tiny shacks. I learned how challenging it can be to witness to people when you are crossing a language barrier, cross-cultural differences, and an economic disparity.

The BWS ended the 28th of June, at which point we took 20 people back to the Frontline office in Cape Town for the **Great Commission Course**. While the purpose of the BWS is to build people up in their faith and inspire them to do great things for the Lord, the GCC is designed to provide initial missionary training and to prepare people for what they will encounter in the field. Frontline accomplishes this through physical training, outreaches, lectures, practicals, and written tests.

We woke up each morning, except Sunday, at the crack of dawn... wait, it was two hours before dawn... to do physical training. After quiet time and breakfast, we had lectures that ranged from edifying (Missions History) to challenging (Evangelizing Animists and Muslims). In the afternoons we did practicals and outreaches. After supper we had a time of worship and report-backs, more lectures, and video presentations. We generally went to bed between 11 and 12, and were up again at 6:30am. Did you know that the fourth Commandment can get really easy to keep? (“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” Exodus 20:8) The Lord’s Day was a really welcome break in the grueling schedule!

Throughout the course, we did a variety of activities that built on the lectures and gave us practical experience in the field. On two separate occasions we hiked through Newlands Forest... in the river... at night... carrying backpacks full of Arabic Gospels. While this seemed to be a strange exercise at first, I quickly realized how much the hikes applied to actual missionary activities. The physical exertion after a long days work compelled me to seek the Lord for strength. The fact that it was nearly pitch dark when under the trees truly enhanced my prayer life. We also held a prayer vigil outside the Marie Stopes abortuary, engaged the Khayelitsha youth in a soccer match to draw a crowd for evangelism, toured the Huguenot Monument, hiked to the top of Table Mountain, and ministered in a local prison.



Beautiful feet? Not so much! We came home covered in mud from the Newlands River night hike.

The lectures helped me figure out which areas of missions I am more interested in pursuing. Peter Hammond, the Director of Frontline, gave lectures on “Evangelizing Muslims,” “Understanding Islam,” and “Comparing the Qur’an and the Bible” that brought me close to a worldview that I hadn’t seriously considered before. I’m more aware now of the challenges I will face when ministering to Muslims, and I hope to carry this forward into outreach.

We were also blessed with the presence of ministers from all over Africa, and I was able to hear a variety of sermons from different backgrounds. While at Frontline I attend Livingstone Fellowship, but during the course I went to a small church in the township Crossroads Nyanga. While there, I heard a sermon given by Timothy Keller, Frontline's Field Director, that changed the structure behind my beliefs. Faith, as Tim put it, "isn't an arrogant assertion of your own will, rather it is submission to God's will." I realized that faith is not believing that God will do a certain thing, so much as submitting to God's way of doing each thing. This has dramatically affected my view of life because I now find myself searching for His way, rather than trying to talk Him into mine!

Confrontations

I enjoyed the outreaches throughout the course; some of which were really challenging! On one outreach to the Claremont train station, I talked to a perfect man. That's right, perfect; he's never sinned in his life. I approached him with a tract entitled, "Are You a Good Person?" (I love this tract because it opens up a conversation almost every time.) As we spoke, he assured me that he was most definitely going to heaven because he was *so* good. We went through the tract, which focuses on the 10 Commandments and God's Law. While he grew more and more uncomfortable, he still maintained his beliefs. As the conversation drew to a close, I was disheartened that I hadn't been able to reach him. I asked the Lord for the right words to leave

him with. I then asked him if he were to die *at that minute* would he go to heaven, seeing as he was perfect. Startled, he looked at me and said, "Well, *now* wouldn't be a good time because I'm not supposed to be on break, I'm supposed to be working!" A sudden pained look crossed his eyes, and the conversation was much more favorable from there on.

The GCC ended on the 12th of July, and we said good-bye to our friends from around the world. Many exciting things have come out of the course for the participants, including missionaries going into the Congo and the slums of Natal.



Literature evangelism is an effective way of getting the Gospel into the hands of many while finding one-on-one witnessing opportunities.



After the prison ministry in Wellington, we had the opportunity to see South African birds of prey.

Continuing

After I caught up on sleep, I started my work as a "missionary trainee" at the Frontline Fellowship mission. As a trainee I will be going through a three part program of missions preparation. First, I have duties at the Mission which, at the moment, include organizing the books and library for the William Carey Bible Institute, assisting with the tape ministry, and learning the functions of missions administration.

Second, I will be doing courses through the William Carey Bible Institute that reflect my

interests and strengths as a missionary. I plan on studying Apologetics, Biblical Law, The Great Commission, Ministering to the Persecuted, and Muslim Evangelism. I chose these

courses because they reflect my interests in missions, and will equip me practically for the field. Thirdly, I will be doing a variety of outreaches in Cape Town, and going on field trips as they are available. Some trip possibilities in the future include KwaZulu-Natal, Zambia, and Sudan.

The Hammonds have taken me in, and I feel like one of the family. Peter and Lenora are an amazing, Christian couple that have so much insight into God’s work. I am so thankful for their daughters, Andrea and Daniela, who have become like sisters to me. Lenora is allowing me to tutor Daniela in grammar, so I will have to start minding my p’s and q’s again! Their two little boys, Christopher and Calvin, remind me so much of Sheldon; they made me feel at home straight away. The first time I met Calvin he trooped up to me with a bow and quiver and asked me if I knew how to shoot anything.



We helped the KwaZulu-Natal mission paint their new buildings and dig out a new septic area.

Commissioned

I am so grateful to the Lord for leading me to a mission that is dedicated to both serving Him directly in the field, and adequately equipping others for service. I’m not sure exactly what the Lord has in store for me here, but I’m glad He allowed me to come. I’ve learned a great deal about missions over the last few weeks, and I look forward to developing this knowledge in the missions field. My next projects will be joining a local ministry that focuses on Muslim evangelism, doing Friday night outreaches with Straat Workers, and helping Frontline prepare for their

National Women’s Day literature outreach.

Please pray that the Lord will guide me as I seek His way in the field. I am depending on Him for the understanding and wisdom necessary to produce effective service and fruitful ministry.

Yours in His Service,

Ashley

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Any gifts can be sent to:

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To receive a tax receipt, cheques can be made out to “Pusch Ridge Christian Church” and designated to my name.

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations” Psalm 67:1-2

