



Ashley's

Letters from the Mission Field

April 2013



Hello friends!

Mama and I drove up to Gatlinburg, Tennessee this past weekend for the annual WMU missions conference. The drive was beautiful up until the very end.

We were about thirty minutes away when we turned onto the two lane Smokey Mountain Passway. We rolled our windows down and let in the cool mountain air. As we climbed higher, Mama got more afraid. She'd peer out the window and see the long fall down to the bottom.

The road twisted and curved rocking us left and right. Each time Mama would look out the window she'd let out a cry like the cowardly lion from the Wizard of Oz. I'd slow down trying to take each turn more gently than the last. Slowly, we made our way through the pass.

We were about six miles in when I saw the first emergency road sign flashing its yellow lights. As we passed all I could read was "back." We continued on until we came to the next sign, I slowed down to read the warning. "Road closed! Turn back!" "Road closed! Turn back!"

"What do you think's going on?" I asked Mama.

"I don't know." We pull out our phones. No service.

Carefully I turn the car around. After a long drive back we come upon the Ranger's Station. Inside we learn that there's been a landslide the size of a football field.

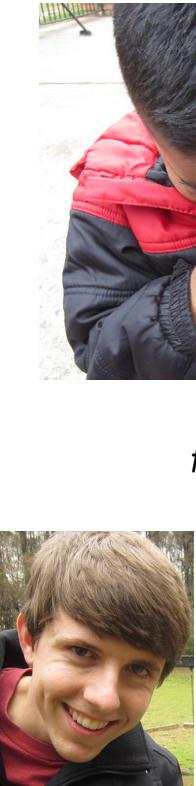
"It's amazing no one got hurt." The ranger tells us. "It's going to take us to the end of the summer to clear all the rubble."

He gives us an alternate route and we start out on the road again. At this point I'm late for my first speaking engagement so I call the WMU ladies and tell them what's happened. An hour passes then two and now I've missed two conferences. Finally, after two and a half hours, on the alternate route we're at the conference.

I'm behind the curtain, Mrs. Amanda is pushing a microphone in my hand and pushing me on stage. At first I'm blinded by the bright lights, but when my eyes adjust I see a crowd of 2,000 young women clapping for me. This is the largest audience I've ever spoken to! I kick into gear and take the church, to the people!



Ashley + Miles





We had a team come in from Naples, Florida last week. On the coldest day, just as the team was getting on the mission field it started raining. Hard! The team took cover under an overhang and prayed for the kids to come. The kids did come and there were over fifteen professions of faith that day!



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