



Ashley's

letters from the mission field

June 2013



“Are you nervous?” Kristen asks me. Her long curly hair drapes in front of her face as she turns to face me. We’re sitting in one of first pews at First Baptist Church of Livingston, Tennessee.



I look at her and give her a big smile, “I’m born ready, babeh!” With that I hear Pastor Donald introducing me, “...and now our youngest North American Mission Board Missionary, Aaaashleyyyy Kendallll!”

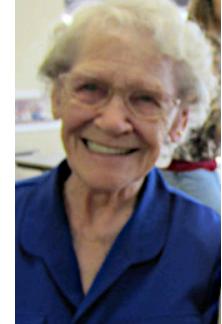


I jump from my seat and run up to the stage. My lime green sari dances around my ankles as I take the microphone.



“What’s going on FBC Livingston?! Are y’all ready to get this party started, or what?!” The church family claps with a burst of energy.

I go on to tell them about my wild adventures growing up in Africa, the crazy midnight python salesman from Madagascar and going to school in France. Then I describe the work we’re doing in the International Village in Atlanta.



After all my stories, I say, “I’ve enjoyed speaking with you all SO much but I’m not just here for entertainment, I’m here for engagement and I’ve got an assignment for YOU.” I pause and let that sink in.

“When we’re at church on a Wednesday night and we hear some one say something like, ‘My mama’s been sick and we had to take her to the hospital yesterday.’ What do we call that?”



The congregations puts forth, “A prayer request?”

“Yes! But what about when we’re at the store or out in our community and we hear that same thing. Who here stops and prays with that stranger or neighbor or friend?”

People shift in their seats. “Well this is the assignment. Next time you’re at the market or at school or wherever and you hear something that sounds like a prayer request, I want you to raise your hand if you will commit to pray with that person right then and there.” A few brave members raise their hands.

At that I joke with the preacher and say, “Pastor, looks like there’s still some work to be done.” Everyone laughs and I finish with, “Now that commitment is a you and Him thing. Don’t be surprised if the next day you find yourself in this situation.”



Friends, please take this assignment to heart and pray with the people around you. It can be something as simple as, “Lord, I lift up my friend to You. Please put a shield of protection and blessing around them. Amen.”



THANK YOU TO THE LIVINGSTON BAPTIST FAMILY FOR
ALL YOU GENEROUS SUPPORT TO MY MINISTRY!

