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Update
by Kari Buchanan
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“ To live is Christ to die is gain.”

3 years ago I moved to New Zealand, for what I felt from the Lord was a season of preparation for ministry to the Middle East. I have had a heart for the Middle East for something like 7-10 years, I don't know exactly how or where a young girl from the Midwest, gets a heart for the Middle East, but I did. It was not something I sought, it just came with a whisper to my heart. That whisper was like a seed logged into my heart that has been nurtured, through different seasons. It was as if it was laying dormant in someways, these last three years.

Dec. 13th, I sat down with some of my Beloved friends here at the Tauranga House of Prayer, Dalton and Anna. They began to tell me the Lord had asked them to give up their pursuit of residency here in New Zealand, and to embrace the Middle East. In that moment it was as if that seed in me, burst forth. They went on to say our director had released them and invited them to build a team with who ever they wished. But it wasn't even the call or invitation that my heart was answering. In their story one motive gripped my heart, more than even the seeds of missions in me, and that is to go “Because He is Worthy.”

I know that the Lord has been equipping me and maturing me in this last season, yet I cannot say I feel ready for what will be required of me in this next season. But, it is I suppose, like standing on the cusp of marriage or parenting, it is impossible to be fully ready for it. You just have to do it.

Our team is being built, and will likely be about 15-20. In the end of April or early May, I will be leaving Tauranga, New Zealand, to be home till I head to the Middle East, in the end of September. I will be spending time with family and prepare for the next season. During that time it is my hope to take a course on Teaching English as a Foreign Language, as well as begin language studies for our entry location.

The details of what and where I will be in the Middle East will be communicated in time. But as of now please know that it is in my heart to boldly offer all of my life for the sake of the gospel to be preached in the nations of the Middle East.

For now I am working on liquidating almost all I own here, and trusting God for the overwhelming cost of many flights this year. Please pray for me during this transition, as it is emotional and chaotic, but glorious at the same time. Pray that our team would have wisdom and revelation from the Father.

In this great hour, I can think of nothing more appealing, nothing more satisfying, nothing my heart aches for more, than to be counted worthy to bear the reproach of Christ. For He is greater than the passing pleasures of sin, greater than all riches, better than life, and His love is better than wine. (Song of Songs 1:2) May we burn and shine in this world as ones the world is not worthy of, through every trial, test, and persecution.

In Christ, Kari Buchanan