

Ashley Hilde's Prayer Letter

March 2007



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Serving in South Africa

"Brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."

II Thessalonians 3:1-3

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and support as I continue in the Lord's missionary calling on my life. This is the last letter that I will write to you as Miss Ashley Hilde. If I said I was disappointed, I would be lying. The future-Mrs. Timothy Keller will happily take over my correspondence.

I have been very busy this month, helping in the various ministries of Frontline Fellowship. We also have several outreaches coming up that I am really looking forward to, including a literature distribution event on "Human Rights Day", a missions conference, a rally, and a second youth camp at KwaSizabantu.

Helping Pastors

By God's grace, the list of students in the William Carey Bible Institute has steadily grown. Most of the students are pastors, church elders, or teachers from rural parts of Africa.



Timothy distributes Bibles and Christian literature from WCCI throughout Africa to establish libraries for growing Christians.

They study and do their assignments while still managing their family and pastoral responsibilities. Many of them have had very little training, either in the Word or in discipleship. Several of the students are exceptionally enthusiastic about their studies, and have progressed a great deal in their courses. I especially enjoy hearing about how they use what they're learning to lead their congregations and evangelize their surrounding communities. Canaan, a pastor from Malawi, has almost finished the Discipleship course. He writes long, carefully thought-out essays and returns his assignments only weeks after receiving them, even though he does all his work without a computer or typewriter. I enjoy overseeing this project and corresponding with the students. I have also learned a great deal through reading their essays and exams! I praise the Lord for this opportunity to reach the African people where they are, and provide them with the knowledge and materials that they so desperately need to grow in faith and reach others with the Gospel.



Teaching the Girls

Several days each week I am privileged to teach the Hammond girls and help them with their home schooling. (Their father, Peter Hammond, is the Director of Frontline Fellowship and has been a missionary in Africa for 25 years.) Andrea is 16 and in the 10th grade; we study grammar, literature, history, and geometry. Daniela is 14 and in the 8th grade; we study grammar and mathematics. Geometry has been my biggest challenge, as I have never taught anything so complex- I'm really having fun with it! I hope Andrea is too... although, I must confess that I had no great love for it when I was in 10th grade! Over the last several months, she has come to such an understanding of grammar, she hardly needs my help. Daniela now gets through her grammar work so quickly, I expect her to be done with most of her assignments before the school year is ½ way over! I have always enjoyed teaching, and I am now especially blessed to have such talented students. I just hope that I can keep ahead of them enough to be of any use as a teacher!



Andrea and Daniela are like sisters to me. I treasure their friendship.



On Timothy's 29th birthday, he taught me how to kneel board. It was great having the opportunity to swim so much... maybe next time I'll be able to stay on the board!

Preparing for the Future

In less than two months, I will be Timothy's wife. I remember talking with the girls, as we grew up together, about eventually getting our "Mrs Degree". At 14, and saturated in chick flicks, being a woman and a wife seemed like nothing more than candy, flowers, and a strong shoulder to lean on. Now, as I prepare to receive *my* Mrs. Title, I have begun to learn, through our Father's faithfulness and the help of several very wise women, that there is so much more involved!

I have learned how to cook (ok, to cook better anyway) and I am slowly learning how to be an effective missionary. Eventually, with God's grace, I will learn how to be a wife, a helpmeet, and a mother. Please pray that the Lord will show me His grace and favor.

I am so looking forward to being Timothy's wife, and I pray that I will be his "good thing from the Lord." (Prov. 18:22)

Getting Married

On Saturday, May 5th, 2007, at 2:30pm, at Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Tucson, Arizona, my father will give me in marriage to Timothy Keller. He and my mother welcome you to the wedding. Please RSVP by April 10th. We would love to see you there!

So Who Is This Guy?

I've been getting a lot of e-mails asking about Timothy. Well, there are very few subjects which I like talking about this much, so let me tell you about this incredible guy.

Timothy first came to Africa in 1998, at the age of 19. He began at Frontline as a missionary trainee, making his first trip to Sudan late in 1998. After numerous dangerous and challenging field trips, Timothy was made Field Director of Frontline Fellowship.

When I first came to South Africa, I thought I would find a bunch of weary, serious, travel-worn missionaries. I couldn't have been more wrong. Timothy is very serious about his relationship with the



Timothy takes devotions at Emmanuel Christian Academy in Zambia.

Lord and his ministry in Africa... and that's where Serious Timothy stops. He is always full of fun, and the cause of many laughs. He has an incredible grasp of the Scriptures, and is always ready to preach and teach the Word. He has an all-consuming passion for Christ, and it shows.



"Uncle Tim" is a favorite teacher. He always has fun ways of reaching the kids with the Gospel.

Timothy has committed himself in every way to the Lord's calling on his life. He has served in the field for almost 10 years and in that time he has suffered through malaria 10 times (I'm not even kidding), been through arrests and confiscations, travelled over 100,000 miles by road (and many more by foot and bicycle) and distributed over 300,000 Bibles, Christian books, and Gospel booklets.

He seeks first God's Kingdom, and is truly becoming a man after God's own heart. In short, I don't feel that I deserve him, but I pray the Lord will make me to be his helper and inspiration.

Visiting the U.S.A.

I will be returning to the States on April 5th. (Yes, Mom is deliriously happy!) Several people have asked me if I would be available to speak to their church, youth group, school, or Bible study about missions in Africa. I would love to be available for any kind of ministry or speaking opportunity. Please contact me as soon as possible to ensure the dates that are best for your group.

Returning to Africa

Timothy and I will return to Africa in mid May. One of the first projects we will work on together will be the 2007 Biblical Worldview Summit and Great Commission Course. As we became friends at the 2006

At the 2006 GCC, Charl van Wyk, a director and missionary with Frontline Fellowship, took a group to distribute literature and evangelize at a railway station in the Khayelitsha township.



course, I think this is very appropriate! I'm looking forward to these courses, and pray that I will be able to help out and minister in many ways. The GCC is a great opportunity for young adults to get practical missionary training, right in the field. There are a variety of lectures in the mornings on subjects such as "Evangelizing Muslims", "Motives for Missions", and "God's Law". In the afternoons, we take the groups out on intense evangelism outreaches. Evenings are spent in worship and study for the next day. Nights are late (and sometimes interrupted with "night hikes") and mornings are early (starting with physical training... rain, snow, sleet or hail!) This is a great training ground for new missionaries, as it thoroughly stretches a person's mind and muscle, body and spirit. I am really excited to be involved as a staff member this year! It's incredible to see Christians reaching out to others, stretching their practical Christian skills, and becoming more dependent on the Lord.



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Impacting the Nations

Everyday in South Africa I am confronted with the needs around me. Some of them are obvious: rampant crime and violence, prevalence of AIDS, hunger in the townships, power shortages, gasoline costs, general apathy in the churches, but most of all, there is a desperate need for a Revival of faithfulness to the Lord and to family. Reaching the next generation of Africans is the key to bringing the Lordship of Christ to fulfillment in this continent. The children today can and must become the Christian forefathers of tomorrow- the future of their nations depends upon it.



In the West, we have become accustomed to the “basics of life”. And I don’t mean blow dryers, refrigerators, and Starbucks; we are ingrained from birth with certain moral and ethical standards. The atheists don’t like to admit it, but these standards came from the great Faith and Christian dedication of our forefathers. Africans don’t yet have that legacy.

In Africa, there is little understanding of basic Christian principles. Absolutes that we understood as very small children, such as: stealing, adultery, and rape are wrong; labor, reliability, and humility are good, are hardly comprehended by many of the leaders here. Africa today is very different from the continent which David Livingstone landed on over one hundred years ago.

There is little territory left unexplored (although much of it is still unreachable to all except the most daring hiker) and most villages have at least heard the Name of Jesus. However, they have little understanding of what it means to be a Christian- to submit to Christ in all areas of life.

This is a critical time in Africa. All over the world, nations such as Russia and Communist China are looking at Africa’s resources with itchy fingers. They are more than happy to invest in “education” programs (graciously donating their Communist textbooks) and in lining the pockets of tractable political leaders... wait, I mean in sending in relief aid to starving countries. (Because all those packages of food and medical aid go to where they’re most needed, right? Uh-huh, that’s why it is the Christians who always seem to starve first.) At the same time, many of the people here truly want a godly nation, to lead their people to victory in Christ.



The balance hangs on the shoulders of this generation. Will they rise up and claim the Lord as their God? Will they learn to rely on His Word in all their ways? Will they grow so close to Him that they begin to think His thoughts after Him?

Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers into His field.

Please continue to pray for me. Please pray that the Lord will:

- Give me wisdom and strength as I seek to do His will.
- Go before me with ministry opportunities in the USA.
- Prepare me to truly be a blessing and helpmeet to Timothy.
- Inspire the people of Africa to an attitude of obedience and thanksgiving.

Thank-you so much for your prayers and support. I greatly appreciate your involvement, intercession, and encouragement. I truly look forward to your letters and emails- please continue to send them! May the Lord lead you to a greater understanding of Himself, and give you pleasure in His service.

Yours for the fulfillment of the Great Commission,

Ashley

Any gifts can be sent to:
Ashley Hilde
c/o Penny Hilde
2240 N Camino Altar
Tucson, AZ 85743

“But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God. I trust in the Lord’s unflinching love for ever and ever. I will praise You forever, for what You have done; in Your Name I will hope, for Your Name is good. I will praise You in the presence of Your saints.” Psalm 52:8-9

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