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Dear Family and Friends,

Over the years I have made numerous failed attempts to keep a diary/journal. Usually my only record of a significant event is a name or time written on my calendar. It is this past pattern of life that makes November 5, 2012 very significant. On a small piece of paper I have that date and the following words written, "Lord, please, make the way straight for me to serve you."

That prayer does not mean that I was not serving the Lord. Over the last few years the Lord has given me ample opportunity to serve Him. However, a trip to Newfoundland in 2011 and a mission trip to Honduras in 2012 made me realize how greatly my heart still longed to share the Gospel and to encourage believers somewhere other than here at home in Welland. That short prayer that day summed up both my desire to serve and my total inability to make it a reality.

God answered my prayer. By November 14, 2012 I was writing a letter of inquiry to Northern Canada Evangelical Mission. As of March 26, 2013 I have been accepted to NCEM as a career missionary candidate.

It all sounds so smooth and easy, doesn't it? In many respects it has been smooth and easy. In other ways it hasn't. Even before I began the application process to NCEM I handed in my notice for my apartment. Before my application was completed I had gotten rid of my furniture, about half of my books, and whatever I deemed surplus. What I felt I needed to keep for the future was stored with friends and family. Then I and what was necessary for the next months moved in with a friend. God's timing and provision is perfect. I was already packed and ready to go before I knew where I was going. My friend's hospitality has not only provided me with a roof over my head, but has also helped to prepare me for the next step.

Lord willing, I will be moving to Roach, Missouri in the middle of August. I will be attending the New Tribes Mission Missionary Training Center for three semesters.

God has richly blessed me with family and friends. The intent of this letter is to let you know what He has done for me. For those of you who are scattered around the country, I also wanted to let you know where I have disappeared to. For now I am using my sister Alison's address as my mailing address. My email address will remain unchanged.

Jeremiah wrote,

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.’
The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” (Lamentations 3:22-26)

At present I can look back and declare the truth of these verses. I am rejoicing because of what God has done for me and for the door he has opened. I am already very aware of my need to continue to trust in the truth of these verses and in the God of whom they speak.

May each of us who know the Lord rest in the truth of these verses no matter what situation we find ourselves to be in. If you do not know the Lord and have not experienced the truth of these verses, you can. He has sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. If you trust in Jesus and what He has done for you, you can become God’s child and experience the truth of these verses.

Love,

Aileen John

p.s. I have enclosed copies of the information that NCEM has provided for me.