

A Look Back

This past year was filled with many things. I decided to use videos for this update to give you a taste of my journey this past year.

In this first video, you will experience the following:

My 2 watchdogs Dunia & Casey and Casey and her brother when they were puppies.

The roads around Tumu, food preparation and eating, church services, a youth conference, Bible Studies, a baby naming ceremony, visiting and helping in various schools and programs, dedication of a water well, discipleship training for youth, team members and friends, Steve visits from Canada, game time at an Easter conference, celebration dances, mango hunting, my parents visit, teaching hockey and of course laughter with the precious people that God has placed in my life.

This is just a glimpse and not the full measure of the ups and downs, the highs and lows of this past year. For some reason I don't get videos of the tears that fall or the hard things even though they come regularly. BUT because of God's fresh supply of grace each day, because of His precious love given to me and those around me, I praise Him and give Him all the glory. He is such an awesome and wonderful Father. I have joy because of Him.

"Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:1-2 + 11

Highlights of 2022

1) After years of many peoples prayers, God answered with the gift of a son named Divine for my friend Rita. This is his dedication ceremony. What an absolute joy!

2) At the end of December, my Director and a few of my colleagues had the privilege of sharing at a national youth conference. There were over 400 youth in attendance. It was a special time together.

3) Beth, Kara and I were able to join community health workers in villages surrounding Tumu to check for vaccinations for children and also check COVID vaccines.

Youth Club Ghana

A big part of this year was launching our Youth Club Ghana. Our committee met each week and planned programs each Saturday. We had to divide the group and add a kids club as we had many small children following their siblings to the club each week.

It has been over one year since we launched our Youth Club Ghana and one wild adventure. We have prepared a program almost every Saturday of 2022 and welcomed more than 100 youth and children. They have been taught about the Bible, enjoyed music and singing, learned about computers and using tablets, have been taught boxing/self defense, art, kite making, how to be creative, basics of voice/piano and of course, we have played many, many games. We have met in 3 different venues, have hosted special programs and had an amazing group of guests to help us with various skill training.

We are excited about what God has in store for the upcoming year...

How I see myself and how others see me has always been a challenge. In this picture - you may think that Patricia sees me with 2 heads, and yet she is just capturing my hair bun :) The reality is, that no matter how I present myself, I don't always know how others perceive me. This is especially true in another culture. I have been overwhelmed at times with wanting to present for example; a competent adult and yet things like language reduce me to a child. My struggle to control how others see me is an exhausting endeavour. Being in a different country, being a leader of a multicultural team, working as a single lady in a place where marriage is hugely important has made it impossible to juggle everyone's perceptions. And so, I hold dearly to who God says I am, and when I keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, there is such beautiful freedom. When I lose my focus (which happens frequently) I can be bound by such fear and distraction of trying to please people. God keeps reminding me that the most important thing is how He sees me and there is no hiding from Him. He sees it all, "the good, the bad and the ugly" and He pours out His love and grace upon me everyday. And so I continue to grow, continue to listen, continue to stand on His truth about who I am. I don't always win this battle, but I am infinitely thankful for His forgiveness when I fall flat on my face – which is more often than I want to.

Here is a list of some funny perceptions of me that I have accumulated over the time I have been in Ghana.

- 1) I am a nun, or a pastor, or a nurse
- 2) I am still a teenager (because of the style of my braid)
- 3) I am rich and can easily send people to Canada
- 4) I wear glasses to look smart/cool (I only wish)
- 5) I can speak Sisaali fluently - unfortunately this is not yet the case and creates some interesting interpretations at times. One day I thought we were talking about vomit, which sounds very similar to 'pick up'. You can imagine the story I was concocting in my head :) The real story was a lot less interesting than mine!

What's coming down the pipeline...

I will be coming home for a seven month home assignment starting in June. Its hard to believe that I have been in Ghana for over 2 and a half years so I am looking forward to coming home for a visit. I am happy to be arriving in the summer so that I have time to adapt to a Canadian winter!

Praise and Prayer

Praise God for bringing Tijin and Merin and their two girls back to Tumu from India.
Praise God for the youth club and all the children and youth that we connect with each week.
Pray for me as I have 3 months left before coming home for a visit. Pray for strength and endurance in this hot season. Pray for people to help lead different ministries in my absence.
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If you would like to support my ministry in Ghana you can find information on how to do this at the following address: <http://www.sim.ca/missionaries/Cadieux>
You can also contact SIM Canada at 1-800-294-6918