



## “Shoulder to Shoulder” “Bega Kwa Bega” Kenya, 2010

January 15, 2010

Dear Kenya Partners:

It is early morning; in a few hours our team will assemble at the airport to begin the 20+ hour journey to Kenya. Our flight leaves at 3:25 PM but we have to be at the airport by noon because of the new security measures.

As I was praying with my Wednesday prayer group last week, the Lord prompted me to pray that we would not bring things with us that we don't need for the trip. Early the next morning, He showed me the unnecessary "baggage" I was bringing; not in my suitcases, but in my heart.

He reminded me that I was told I was proud when I was a young child. He told me I was afraid to love myself because I didn't want to be proud. I was also afraid to let Him use me because I hated the devil's accusations that I was responsible for what God had done. What He showed me next set me free.

Lies wound but truth heals. Pride has its roots in insecurity. Self-loathing and self-hatred does not honor Him; it is pride trying to pass itself off as humility. I need to tell myself the truth about who I am. The truth is: He created me and gave me natural and spiritual gifts. Accepting who I am is not pride.

Accepting and believing truth creates wholeness. Wholeness is a testimony of His love and grace. It is proof that He is God, His love transforms and His power heals all woundedness. He is glorified when I choose to love and accept myself because doing so enables me to walk in wholeness and confidence.

I am the daughter of the King!! Daughters of the King are not proud because they are the King's daughters. They are confident because they know their Father, His power and His authority. He has given me, His daughter, authority over all the power of the enemy and I should not fear to use it. Pride will hinder Him from using me because pride is self-focused. Humility is God-focused.

Wow!! I had no idea that, when I said yes in November, He was going to do this! Everyone should take a mission trip every year because lots of people pray for you, God sets you free from lies and makes you more usable when you go. It's a no-brainer!!

I would appreciate prayer for Dale. He's come down with a nasty cold and has so much face pain that he's not sleeping much. I've had a myriad of crazy things happen this week. I'm sure were sent to distract and discourage. But, I've also seen the Lord's blessings on my business; more about that when I return. My ribs are still a bit sore but are feeling much better! I would also appreciate your prayers for Esa, a man in my business networking group. I shared the Kenya LIFE message God gave me with him yesterday; his heart was not open to it. He sells health, long-term care, and life insurance but is not risk-averse regarding where he will spend eternity.

You've read about how the Lord used your prayers to prepare me for this trip. Now that we are only hours away from leaving, your prayers are even more important because we are stepping onto the battlefield. I am confident that you will continue to pray for us as we go and rejoice with us as you hear what the Lord is doing in answer to your prayers.

My team and I (personally) would love to hear from you while in Kenya. You can send us a note via the Grace website. Notes sent are slid under our door at night so we have them to start our day. I was encouraged so much by your notes when I was in Peru in 2008.

I love each of you and am so blessed by your love, friendship and prayers! Thank you so much for your love for me and your labor of love on His behalf!

Sharon