

A mint to remind you,
You are meant to be here.

You all can recall the moment you knew you were supposed to go to _____ with us. When things get a little crazy and you begin to think you came all this way for nothing. Remember, God hasn't changed His mind about who you are (His beloved child) and your mission (to carry His Word). We may never know the full extent of how He uses us. Just remember:

*God's gifts and God's call are under full
warranty—never canceled, never rescinded.
Romans 11:29 The Message*

A rubber band to remind you
to be flexible.

We are planning everything we can possibly plan. I know you have already been praying about our lessons, arranging your schedule, and understanding the culture. But, I can assure you that things will change while we are there. We may have to write new lessons or adjust the ones we have already prepared. In the middle of a lesson, you may see blank stares and realize you have to adjust on the fly. Remember, God is in charge of our steps. He has already told us:

*The mind of man plans his way,
But the Lord directs his steps.
Proverbs 16:9 NASB*

A packet of tissues to remind you,
when what you see breaks your heart,
keep smiling!

You may see poverty, neglect, darkness, sin, selfishness and innocence; and you may want to find a hole and have a good cry. But our tears do not accomplish the Lord's work. His joy in us does far more than our tears could ever do.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:3-4 NIV

*Do not grieve,
for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
[Nehemiah 8:10b](#) NIV*

**A bottle of hand sanitizer to remind you,
To guard against uncleanness.**

You will need this to avoid the unseen danger of germs, but let it be a reminder that it is the unseen dangers that lurk in our hearts that are the most corrupting influences in our lives. Each day, awaken with this prayer on your lips. Two urgent things are needed, a clean heart to see what God sees and react as He reacts and a steadfast spirit to keep going past fatigue, past frustration, past feeling ill-equipped and unprepared.

***Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10 NIV***

**A cross to remind you,
nothing is done in our strength.**

Your salvation came as a result of what God did. You turned away from sin and doing things your way and fell on the mercy and grace of our Savior. You didn't save yourself. What is accomplished on this trip is not dependent on your strength either. Stop all the voices in your head and listen to Him alone and then trust enough to do what He says.

***This is what the Sovereign Lord,
The Holy One of Israel, says:
"In repentance and rest is your salvation,
In quietness and trust is your strength."
Isaiah 30:15a-b NIV***

I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength. Phil 4:13 NLT

**A pointless pencil to remind you,
that our trip will be pointless unless we share Jesus.**

We are going to do a lot of things. We'll teach English, improve pronunciation and grammar, make friends and have a lot of fun. But if we fail to share Jesus, there is no point in going.

***Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one can come to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 NLT***

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