

Ambassadors Fellowship, Inc (AFI) African American Missionary Devotional

Missionary Safiya*

The Reward of Mission Life

Scripture Readings: Habakkuk 2:14, Psalm 27:4, Luke 15:7

*real name, photo, organization name & location not able to be used due to security for the missionary and people she is currently serving.



Lots of people can think of a long list of reasons not to become a missionary, all sorts of scary and painful ideas quickly come to mind. In the midst of real and imagined fears what often gets pushed to the background are the great joys. Second to the greatest reward of dwelling in the presence of the Lord and beholding His beauty, is probably the joy of leading others to Jesus. Salvation is a miracle every time, even more so when the people coming to Jesus are from an unreached people group.

Safiya hadn't been on the Eurasia mission field exceptionally long, even though the journey to get to the field was long and difficult, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The journey to the field started when she felt a call to missions as a little girl, living on the East Coast in the US. But she didn't start moving towards the process until she was 30. Even when she started the process, she had to re-evaluate, count the cost, and say yes every step of the way. At first, her family was not supportive, finding funding for training and preparation was exceedingly difficult, and raising funds for the field was even more so. She also had to overcome (and still does) the barriers that come with being a single African American woman in Eurasia and navigating expectations and identity among the nationals.

Now after the long journey to get there it literally seemed like the door to share the gospel was closing. Safiya found herself on quarantine and lockdown due to the pandemic. How do you share the gospel when you can't meet people and are trying to learn the language? Teammates returned to the US and couldn't get back in the country. In addition to all that she watched all of the racial tension unfold at home. Safiya says, "it was a very lonely time because

my colleagues and friends on the field didn't understand what I was experiencing, while everyone who could relate was miles away. There were lots of tears and hard conversations, but I'm thankful for the Body of Christ and for those who are committed to Kingdom unity even though it's messy."

What kept her, staying on the field, thriving, and not depressed? Leading a Muslim woman to the Lord!!! Every week when Safiya would write and despite all the prayer points and trials you could hear the joy of a heavenly praise party through the pen and paper. This new babe in Christ was growing and got baptized! Real joy for Safiya was walking alongside this newfound sister in Christ in discipleship. She says, "in spite of the ups and downs, Jesus is worth it all!"

How is your joy? Could it be low because you haven't been sharing your faith and experiencing the joy of leading people to Jesus? Pray for an opportunity to share your faith today.