



Katie Pickens, from Nashville, TN, explains how she received her call to serve:

“I have been a Christian my entire life; baptized not long after I was born, confirmed in the Methodist church, and am now a member of Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville.” Visiting Haiti after the 2010 earthquake shook her faith and changed her

life. She says, “I want to serve in Haiti because I want to share what God has given me: a plan, a path and the love and hope to know what He is like. I want to follow in His Son’s footsteps. God is up to something in my life. He has a plan. Jeremiah 29:11 says, ‘I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.’”

When Katie heard about the new job that was being created at CONASPEH*, she knew it was the right fit for her. Assisting at the CONASPEH guest house and assisting Haitians and Americans travel in and around Haiti fit with her previous career as a catering manager at a large hotel. She felt she could make a difference by allowing CONASPEH to focus on the jobs that they are best at—healing the sick, teaching new ministers and nurses, and working to establish churches and schools.

Katie keeps a blog, a diary on the internet. Here are some snippets from it:

I wondered and was asked many times what I would miss most about the US. I often thought water was the answer. Fresh, clean drinking water or dlo (in Kreyol) is pretty hard to come by. It doesn't come out of the faucet or drinking fountains. I had to purchase a water cooler and 4 five-gallon jugs to supply drinking water, brushing teeth water, water for ice (which is kind of a joke), washing my hands and face water, and cooking water. It cost roughly \$25 to purchase the first time and then it's about \$10 after that.



However, as I sit here in the dark for the umpteenth night in a row, I realize I miss electricity the most. My mood is better when I have electricity. I can charge the odinate (computer) that keeps me connected to friends and family and I can use my vantilate (fan) to drown out the street noises and the roosters. What's strange is, I don't really mind not having AC or lights. I just don't really need those things. But, I really enjoy being able to connect to the internet...I just feel a little bit less alone.

I am adjusting quickly though! My devotional book this week has focused on making a new place a home. It is so poignant that that would be the subject. It said, “He—not a physical house or a specific arrangement of rooms—is our dwelling place.” I may not have power all the time, it may be hard to find water, but I have a home in the Lord. I do have a dwelling place and for that I am grateful and blessed!

If you would like to follow the blog of this amazing young woman, go to <http://katiesgoingtohaiti.blogspot.com/>

*Council of Churches of Haiti umbrella organization made up of 5,000 Protestant churches



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