

THE ISLES ARE SINGING

Chapter 5

GOD CHOOSES WEAK THINGS

²⁷But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world
to confound the wise;
and God hath chosen the weak things of the world
to confound the things which are mighty;
²⁸And base things of the world, and things which are despised,
hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not,
to bring to nought things that are:
²⁹That no flesh should glory in his presence.
I Corinthians 1:27-29

As the joy of assurance began to give me new purpose in life, the Holy Spirit started reminding me of those early years of preparation – the missionaries in our home, the story of Mary Slessor, and my baptism.

There was a young MK (missionary kid) in college who often told me stories about his parents and their missionary work in Brazil. He was burdened for unreached peoples who had never had an opportunity to hear the Gospel. I don't know why he shared these things with me as I didn't really know him, and I don't recall having told anyone that I was interested in serving the Lord on the mission field. At that time, it was still something very remote in my thinking. The Lord used those conversations, however, to stir my heart and create a desire to have a part in reaching those who had never had a chance to hear the name of Jesus.

Later, a missionary speaker at college presented a challenge for missions, and asked all those who were willing to serve the Lord full time to stand and make it public. I knew that message was for me, and it took every ounce of my being to keep myself glued to my seat when the Holy Spirit was urging me to stand. How thankful I am that the Lord did not give up on me! The Holy Spirit kept on wooing me and tugging at my heart strings until I started bending to His will. "Okay, Lord, I'll serve you on the mission field," I finally declared. Yet the "but" was still in my heart, mind, and mouth. "But I know You'll never send me to any of those places where sick and physically hurting people would need my care. You know I would faint at the sight of blood, and you know how my stomach churns at the sight and smell of bodies that are eaten with disease, mangled, deformed, ready to die."

God wanted total yieldedness, however, and continued to remold the vessel He had started working on years before. Not long after college graduation, during a missions conference at my home church, the challenge was given once again to volunteer for active duty. The word of God pierced into the depths of my soul and spirit until this earthen vessel was fully yielded in the Potter's hands. "There are many men and women who are wise after the flesh, and mighty, and noble. There are many who have great abilities and could do great things, but God has not chosen very many of these because too many of them would trust in their own strength and would glory in themselves. God has chosen foolish things, and weak things, and base things, and things which are despised, and things which are not." Those descriptions

certainly fit me – foolish, weak, base. Certainly then God could use me just as I am. But what about this weak stomach?

I do not remember how II Corinthians 12:9 fit into the message. It may have even been another message on another day of the conference. I do remember, however, coming to the end of the meetings with peace in my heart, no longer fearing, no longer dreading those things that had held me back, ready to go anywhere, knowing that God's grace was sufficient for every situation I would meet. God's grace for facing disease and physical troubles was not needed at that time. If and when His grace would be needed, I had His promise that it would be available, and it would be sufficient. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (II Corinthians 12:9)