

Dear friends and family:

Wassup?

That's how my brother J-A greets me when I call home. Um, he might add a "yo!" before though, I don't remember... Did you know my brother was born in 1988? That means that people of his generation think that Pierce Brosnan has always been James Bond, don't know that Travolta knows how to dance, never played Nintendo with square controllers, and don't think of "Jaws" when they go in the ocean!

Thus, for my brother and his friends, I will continue with this title:

Les Aventures de la Vieille (2nd episode)

October has been a mix of emotions. First, there was the hurricane. We decided to stay at a friend's house that night because our house is a little old and we didn't have our storm shutters on. But before we left, we prayed for our house.

When Wilma finally left, my roommates and I walked in our neighborhood to evaluate the damages. We saw a couple of uprooted trees, broken glass and cables, damaged roofs, etc. But you know what? Our house remained intact! Woo-hoo! Thank God.

After Wilma, we spent five days without power. There was no TV, computer, stereo or fridge to 'entertain' us. At first, it was a bit frustrating but it ended up being a blessing as it allowed me to spend more time with God, my friends and the people in our community. I was also able to participate in hurricane relief work and that was great. One of the most memorable experiences for me was when we went to distribute food in a poor and almost hidden neighborhood in Liberty City. It was a shock for me to see the conditions in which the people there lived... Last time I saw that kind of poverty, I was in El Salvador.

Then, the apartment complex across the street from TML was condemned. The roof had been damaged during the hurricane and was basically falling off. So one morning the cops knocked on people's doors and gave them a couple of hours to evacuate their stuff. Most families already live under financial stress so that news was just... bad (to say the least). We helped people move and had thirteen families store their belongings in our building. I helped move three families, and all three apartments were insalubrious. It is difficult to be in contact with people's suffering, it demands a lot of energy. I don't cry often but let me tell you, I cried a lot that week! So things have been tough but I am happy to be in Miami. I know this is where God wants me right now. It is an opportunity for me to understand, receive and live the grace and justice of God.

There are also good things going on here! For example, there's the story of Victor; a Christian man who came not long ago from Guatemala to pursue better life conditions. When I first met Victor, he was very anxious. See, he is un-documented, doesn't speak a word of English, doesn't read or write, and has no family here. Victor's worst fear was to fall into drugs or alcohol like most of his friends. He really loved God and didn't want to dishonor him. So we talked and prayed together. Not long ago, he told me that he had met a pastor who taken him under his wing. That pastor gave him an apartment and a temporary job. Praise God. Victor taught me a lot about perseverance and faith.

I'm more and more comfortable at the Downtown Mission. I've made myself new friends! So that's cool. I'm also helping with the worship at the Downtown Mission and the Lighthouse, which is the church I go to on Saturday nights. Not only does it allow me to play with good musicians but it's also a good opportunity for me to develop my musical skills.

Anyways, I could go on forever because I'm a girl and I love to talk... but I'm going to leave you here with a few prayer requests:

1) My relationship with God. Always.

2) For the families who have been displaced. Please pray that city officials would find the resources they need to do something about it.

3) TML's ministry. Pretty much all of our staff is new! Please pray that God would give us His vision and wisdom, that we may be doing what we are supposed to be doing...

Thank you very much for your love and support. Blessings, Dalia xox

B.I.G. D 🕶️

"Il m'a envoyé pour guérir ceux qui ont le cœur brisé, pour proclamer aux captifs la liberté, et aux prisonniers la délivrance"

(La Bible, Ésaïe 61 verset 1)

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