Micah’s Mission Story #16

After a long day it was time to go home- we had worked until 9pm like we were told, it was dark and we were wending our way back to our apartment. Streets in Philadelphia get a little more crazy as the night goes on so we were moving back to our apartment pretty fast, when I heard a man’s voice talking with his friends in front of his car. And I knew that I had to go talk to him. I told my companion that we need to stop and talk to that guy (this is the same companion who was only out 6 weeks who didn’t appreciate me tailing that grandma all the way back to her home). He was scared and wanted to go home and pointed out that they were all standing around drinking alcohol. I said that we needed to go talk to them and then crossed the street. When I got close this West African man’s face immediately changed from boisterous intoxication to sorrow. I said, “How are you doing this evening? We are messengers from Jesus Christ” to which the man told us that he knew that we were messengers of Christ and he sent his friends away and poured the remainder of his alcohol out on the ground. He said, “You are messengers of Jesus Christ and it’s not right for me to be drinking like this.” He said that he would invite us into his home but that he wasn’t in a good condition and he said that he would get him and his family ready for us if we came back the next day. We said a prayer with him, thanked him for his time and then came back the next day. This man was legally married (sometimes individuals said they were married but it was just common law) and he had five kids above baptismal age. We taught that family and they became one of my most beloved West African families that I knew in my entire mission. They adopted me into their tribe (they said that I could call myself a “Basa man” from that point on). There was a stake meeting the week after the Sunday that they were all baptized (we had 21 investigators at Church that Sunday) so the bishop wanted us to confirm them that Sunday (the day they were baptized). Baptizing them and then confirming them was the most spiritually draining experience of my life. It was as though power had actually left me and I didn’t even know if I was going to be able to walk all the way home, but I did. I threw myself on the couch, thanked God for the day and had a nap! The baptizing of that family was the record for the largest family baptized with a husband and wife and the highest baptizing in a single week (7) and I would have missed out on that entire opportunity if I had feared man more than God. I celebrated my 20th birthday over at their house.

**Things we can learn from this:** Once again, always follow promptings. Miracles always occur in the fourth watch. Just because somebody is drinking (intoxicated) or smoking or cursing etc does not mean that is who the individual is or that they don’t want to change or that is the extent of their potential. Spiritual experiences are draining. I learned firsthand why Joseph was so exhausted and later on why the apostles were so exhausted and Joseph was not. It’s like a muscle and spiritual experiences will exercise it and will drain you, but the more you do it, the stronger you will become and your capacity will increase.

I testify that this is a true story and share it with you in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.