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bottom to coat all ten of my nails. It was sticky and old, but it was her treasure and she was freely giving it to me. I was so honored!

And isn't this what God wants from us? I see Keerthi's generous heart and I want to imitate it. Like so many people I met in India, she had nothing, and yet she gave everything she had. And with such joy! At least for me, giving with a cheerful heart comes so much easier when I get a grateful perspective.

When I think about all the things I have been given: my education, my home, my family (Keerthi's parents visit her only once a year, in May). I think about my ministry and how I am constantly surrounded by people who love God, I think of relationships in the kingdom that God has given me, brothers and sisters that call me higher and reflect His love. I think about all the peace, joy, and hope I've received as a disciple. I think about the love the Father has lavished on me. I get to be called a child of God! I remember Jesus' sacrifice and what it allows: forgiveness, salvation, and eternal victory.

As Jesus sends out the twelve in Matthew 10, he tells them, "Freely you have received; freely give." God has given to me so abundantly. Who am I, a pile of dust, to hold back anything I have from him? God gave me his most precious possession when he sent Jesus to the cross to suffer and die for me. While my treasures look a little bit different than a bottle of glittery purple nail polish, I strive to give them back to him freely. My earnings, my energy, my time, my sleep, my heart: he deserves it all.



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INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN



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HYC Reflections: "Freely You Have Received, Freely Give"

Latest Stories on www.DisciplesToday.org:

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- ***Update from the Ukraine: Please Pray and Fast for Peace***
  Shawn Wooten, Kiev, Ukraine — Wednesday, 19 February 2014
  Dear brothers and sisters around the world, We want to thank you for your prayers and we know many of you have fasted for God to bring peace to the Ukraine...
- ***Making Disciples: New Bible Study Series from Chicago***
  Chicago Church of Christ — Wednesday, 26 February 2014
  The hope with this study series is to provide a valuable tool for each and every disciple of Jesus. In the spirit of Ephesians 4:12 this manual helps to "equip the saints," bringing confidence as we strive to seek and save...
- ***Baptisms and Restorations in Middle East ICOC***
  Moufid Tohme, Beirut, Lebanon — Thursday, 20 February 2014
  The following testimony proves the saying "Don't put a full stop where God has put a comma in people's lives." A Syrian man named Nidal came to Lebanon in 1997 looking for a job. He had a Kurdish background, with no awareness of Christianity at all. He met disciples at the end of 1998, studied the Bible...
- ***God's Love is Better: Lesson from NIU Disciple***
  Mark Lester, Chicago, IL — Wednesday, 19 February 2014
  This past Sunday, I did a lesson for the 5th and 6th graders on God's love. Tonight, before Valentine's Day, I had it put on my heart to share it again with everyone. It won't be the whole thing, but it is basically what I had on my heart to share with you guys.

• UPCOMING EVENTS

Good Enough Parenting Workshop
San Diego, CA USA
April 5-8, 2014

DT Hawaii Fellowship Cruise for Singles and Marrieds
Hawaii, USA
April 27-May 9, 2014

US International Campus Ministry Conference
St. Louis, Missouri, USA
July 4-6, 2014

Vietnam Church 20th Anniversary
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
July 5-6, 2014

ICOC International Leadership Conference & Delegates Meeting
Singapore
August 22-30, 2014

International Singles Conference
Denver, CO, USA
September 26-28, 2014

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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Phoebe Hannon — Boston, MA



Over Christmas break, I had the amazing opportunity to participate in HOPE Youth Corps in Chennai, India. Our team was about 120 people from all around the world. We taught kids, we interviewed villagers, we painted murals, we learned and performed traditional dances, we talked to lepers and heard their life stories. I could talk for days about all of the adventures we went on. It truly was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

When I reflect upon generosity, one particular story immediately jumps to mind. On Christmas day, we went to a home for children with HIV and AIDS (as seen in the film Blood Brother). We spent the day playing dodgeball, cricket and other games with the kids, loving up on them as best we could in the few hours we had. With a strong language barrier, our communication relied heavily on body language, so naturally, I was making all kinds of silly faces. The kids were amused; this one girl named Keerthi even laughed a little bit. We started talking and it wasn't long before she took my hand, led me to the room where the girls sleep, sat me down, and started painting my nails.

To a girl who didn't have any toys, nail polish was obviously a luxury. It was the very end of the bottle; she had to shake it and scrape the

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