

Christian Life

Part 1 of 13 sections—March 3, 2019

God-sized Plan

by Laura Thomas

ZACH checked his e-mail once more. This was really happening; his future was coming together even more perfectly than he could have imagined. So why the sweating palms? Why the palpitations?

“Dude, are you OK? You look like you might throw up any second.” Billy, Zach’s roommate, slapped him on the shoulder. “This is a big day for us both. Man, don’t go fainting on me! Do you need food? I could do with a snack.” Billy reached into the fridge and pulled out a slice of pizza.

Zach turned to face his friend. “Don’t worry, I’m absolutely fine. I guess it’s all catching up with me today—all these years of studying and practicums, and now we get to teach for real.”

“Yeah, it’s what we were made for. You and me—we were born teachers.”

Zach grinned. “Yeah, I think we were.” He walked over to the chair and picked up his jacket. “You should be hearing from the schools back home any day.”

Billy nodded. “I guess so. But my plan is nothing compared to yours.”

“You mean India?”

“Hello! Yes, I mean India. Did you get that e-mail about your apartment yet?” Billy slipped on his shoes and stood by the door.

Zach shrugged. “No, that’s all I’m waiting for now. The mound of paperwork is done, my visa’s in place,

and I just need that last confirmation about where I’ll be living, and then I’ll be on my way.”

“It’s wild, man.”

“You can say that again. Come on, we should go to the hall and pick up our cap and gowns. You might want to wipe that pizza sauce from your chin too!”

The convocation ceremony went without a hitch, and Zach’s parents and older brother, Josh, were there to cheer him on. He did not even trip when he walked across the stage—defying the nightmares he had endured all week long.

After he had spent some time with



his proud parents, they both wandered off in search of some refreshments while he hung out with Josh. His brother enveloped him in a bear hug. “Congratulations, Zachy! You’ve worked really hard for this, and now you get to live your dream.”

Zach’s smile fell, and he suddenly needed to sit.

“What’s up, bro? You’re awfully pale. Let’s grab these chairs.”

Josh pulled out a chair, and Zach sunk into it. He took a deep breath, took off his mortarboard, and ran his fingers through his hair.

“I’m sorry, Josh, I know I’m supposed to be pumped today and ecstatic about going to India, but the truth is, I’m second guessing myself.”

“Seriously? How come? Working in India is all you’ve talked about since we went on that missions trip when you were twelve years old!”

“I know; I know. I don’t understand what’s wrong with me. I’ve barely slept all week, and now there’s only a month until I leave. What if I’ve made a horrible mistake? What if it’s not really what God wants me to do?”

Josh lowered himself onto the chair next to Zach’s and folded his arms. “I know I’m only three years older than you, but I’ve kind of been in the same sort of situation. Not with India, but with wanting to know if I’ve bitten off more than I can chew. Wondering if I’ve imagined all the ‘yesses’ from God just because I really, really wanted my plans to work out.”

“And? How did you know for sure?”

Josh shrugged. “I think it’s in our family genes to worry, but I had to get over myself and trust God like never before. I think sometimes we forget how big God really is.”

“What exactly do you mean?”

Zach leaned closer. He needed all the wisdom he could get right now.

“I remember Dad telling me about how the Apostle Paul was supposed to go to Rome to testify, but everything went sideways and there was a plot to kill him. It’s in Acts 23, I think.” Josh reached into the inside pocket of his jacket and pulled out a slim Bible.

“Very handy.” Zach raised an eyebrow.

“I think so. You never know when you might need a dose of wisdom.” He flicked through the pages quickly. “Yes, here it is. There were about forty men ready to murder Paul before he reached Rome—that was quite the situation. But God had already told Paul to not worry about anything because His plan was going to work out. He told him to ‘be of good cheer’” (Acts 23:11).

“And He is God after all.”

“Exactly. So Paul had to trust that everything would work out fine—because it was all part of God’s plan.”

Zach nodded. “So remind me what happened in the end.”

Josh glanced down at his Bible, “Well, nothing was going to stand in

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