

## **In the Shadow – Abiding in the Secret Place**

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High,  
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”



What does it mean to abide under the shadow of the Almighty? Approximately 20 kilometers from our dwelling in Rwanda lies the active volcano Nyiragongo. There is potential for a massive natural disaster when it chooses to strike. Last year, an eruption occurred. Thirty-two people lost their lives and one thousand homes were destroyed.

That knowledge doesn't cause anyone to lose sleep, to the best of my knowledge, but there is a healthy respect as we live in Nyiragongo's shadow. So I have been learning to simply abide and rest under the shadow of the Almighty.

Abiding in the secret place of the Most High has spoken into my life through teaching English at the nursery school. There have been days that I felt like having a meltdown as my students do! The overwhelming stress from teaching and the frustrations of cross-cultural communication are a challenge. I am thankful to say that things have improved. The growing pains of learning to be a teacher are, well, painful. The confidence and assertiveness that I have gained have been invaluable. Through the challenges and struggles, I love my students and I love being able to hear their little voices respond, “Good morning, teacher!” It warms my heart and gives me the energy to keep going.



When living in a cultural context that is not your own, the mountains and valleys of life are felt so much more acutely. The mountain tops are absolutely beautiful, and the valleys are absolutely terrible. “Joy without sorrow has no meaning.” I am so thankful that I am alive to feel that wild roller coaster called life, and that God has brought me home to Rwanda.

Imana ishiemwe! - To God be the glory! Grace Elliott

