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Preaching With Power

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." —Exodus 4:11, 12 NIV

Joy Ngugi has a passion for preaching. The junior at Andrews Academy has been on two mission trips where she shared her beliefs from the pulpit. Last July, she and a group of academy students went to Nicaragua to hold an evangelistic series. She claims the experience was life-changing.



Joy Ngugi

Previously, Joy had preached at an evangelistic series in Panama. Going there helped her overcome her fear of speaking up front, she says. When she arrived in Nicaragua on her second mission trip, she spoke on topics like the Millennium, death, Heaven and various prophecies. Joy preached one sermon every night, and remembers, "It was hard work but worth it."

On Saturday evening of the trip, Joy says she felt especially unprepared for her sermon. She had preached the night before and again that morning at church.

"When I went up to talk, I just didn't feel ready," Joy recalls. "After I prayed, it's hard to describe... But I started talking, and immediately felt this presence. It felt like the Holy Spirit was working in me."

That night, Joy claims she spoke with the most power she has ever preached, so much so that she surprised church members in the crowd! To her excitement, several visitors who had come for the sermon that night decided afterward to get baptized.

"I hardly even remember what I said that night because it wasn't me," she laughs.

Joy even felt God's presence working when the students traveled home. During their three-hour flight, the teenagers met other missionaries of different religious backgrounds on the same plane. Joy and her classmates shared their beliefs with the group. By the end of the flight, she says these missionaries questioned their own beliefs.

Besides her work overseas, Joy also ministers to those in her community and school. She served at Andrews Academy as a class pastor for two years and has spoken to youth groups in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is a physical therapy major at Andrews University.

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