

New Roots in Nature – The Day My Computer Died

- How did a 21-year-old Black girl whose lips turned purple when she swam at the beach end up becoming a recreational scuba diver? It was all my Dad's idea.
- My mother was there watching but didn't have any desire to go under the water.
- We got certified together in Grand Caymen. We didn't know any other Black divers
- Eventually my sister and nibling also learned to dive so we are a diving family.
- First 18 years of diving = no photography. Only from other people that I paid for
- Most important thing in diving is to buoyancy control and photography is a distraction.
- The three factors to track for a no decompression dive.
 - How long - Time
 - How Deep
 - What Gas
- When I started diving, dive computers had just started coming onto the market. They were expensive and looked like massive watches on your arm.
- I tried one after getting certified, but I continued to calculate using my tables.
- We had to be conservative with tables, so we often had much shorter dives.
- As dive computers got more popular, we could better calculate and therefore push the limits more because we knew exactly how much time at each level.
- Then I got nitrox certified and had to learn new tables for the new gas mix.
- Because I had gotten reliant on the computer, I no longer did dive planning
- In 2022 my father and I went to Turks and Caicos for his birthday.
- On our very first dive so I really didn't know how deep it was or what it was like. I was literally in uncharted waters – and my dive computer flooded.
- Choice – pull out of the dive or move forward.
- Rely on my Dad and trust that if I followed his path I would be within the right limits
 - Stick close to him -We are always supposed to stay close, but in this instance, I needed to let him lead and never get separated because that would mean I was in a different profile that I could be sure was actually safe
 - Hover above so I would never go deeper than he did - I could end up out of my depth without knowing it, trust that his depth was the safe limit.
 - Cut the photography so I wouldn't get distracted - Focus on the experience, not capturing the experience which can lead you to miss the big picture.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is God calling you into uncharted territory? Are there places you are scared to go to because you don't know how you will navigate them? What might you be missing by not diving in?
2. If you are in the midst of negotiating a challenging situation calls to stick closer to God as parent? How can you lean in
3. In scuba diving, photography is often something that makes you less present in the face of amazing creation. Are there people or situations that are making you unable to appreciate?