

CALLED TO CARE

I remember the first time my eyes were opened to the weight of the world's problems. I remember the faces of the children, looking up at me shyly, not knowing who I was or why I was there. I remember the work we did together to help their community. I remember the strange smells, the never-ending rice fields, and the diversity of fruits. But most of all, I remember the pure joy they had in the midst of their poverty. At 17 years old, I left Cambodia in tears, my compassion forever changed.

I used to think that the world needed me. I wanted to save the world or at least change some of it. Trying to save the world is definitely too heavy a burden for any of us to carry. It took visiting over 15 countries and living as a missionary in China for five years for me to realize that Jesus never called us to save the world, He already did.

Though I thought it was, caring for others wasn't my mission or even my calling. Caring for others is what happens when we are transformed and renewed as followers of Jesus. Caring for others only comes naturally when we are secure in the Father's great love for us. As the Kingdom of God is revealed more fully in our hearts, we hear a new song and learn a new dance...a new way of seeing the world and a new way of doing life. This new dance is one of healing and redemption, understanding, and grace.

This new song opens our eyes and especially our hearts to those around us, allowing us to truly see value in each other. As Mother Teresa said, "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus, I must tend to him. This one has leprosy, I must wash him. I serve because I love Jesus."

Jesus saved, and is saving the world and has invited us all to belong in His family. That means that each set of eyes that we look into are the eyes of the beloved, the eyes of our family, the eyes of someone valuable, the eyes of someone worthy of love. So why do we care for others? We care because God cared for us first. He showed us our value and our beauty, and by us, I mean every single person ever to be born. We care because we want to see people like God sees people. Because we want to love like he loves. We are meant to be those who are bold enough to try and put on the clothes of Christ. The clothes don't always fit right, and they aren't always easy to walk in, or even comfortable, but we keep putting them on, we keep trying to live in His shoes, because we love Him, and He has changed who and what we love!

Breanna Lowman



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PATHWAYS TO HOPE

PRAYERS & PRAISE

PRAISE

For our most recent graduate, a single mom with two young children. She was abused as a child which left her with a permanent disability. She described herself as never being able to succeed at anything and was known in her family as a "quitter." **But all that has changed.**

She is dedicated to giving her children a better life! She is enrolled in college, getting top grades and is well on her way to self-sustainability!

PRAYERS

For our residents and applicants as they work to change their lives.
For our board as we move into 2018 with great vision & growth!

