

Living Out God's Vision!

CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

Day 2, Monday, August 7th —All People

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19 ESV

A few years ago, I read a book about a young woman who moved to Uganda as a missionary. She adopted numerous orphans and taught everyone she met about the love of Jesus. I finished that book late one night, and before I went to sleep, I earnestly prayed that I, too, could become a missionary one day. I prayed that my husband would miraculously wake up the next day and proclaim, "God told me that our family should move to Uganda!!"

Well, often times when we pray to change others, God uses that opportunity to change us. You see, God spoke to ME that night, not my husband. In fact, God woke me up around 3 am and told me to go run in my neighborhood. Seriously. I wasn't even a runner at the time! It was cold and dark. I was afraid and argued with God from the warmth of my bed and blanket. But eventually, I submitted to HIS plan.

I got up, put on some sneakers and started running down my street. All of a sudden, during that run, God changed my heart for missions. He told me to look around at my neighbors' houses. As I ran in my neighborhood, he reminded me of the lonely widow across the street, the family that was on the verge of bankruptcy, the couple who recently separated, the gentleman dying of cancer, and the list went on. So much pain and so close to home. God spoke loudly to my heart and said, "THIS is your Uganda. I have moved you HERE for a specific reason."

I had been wrong. I had erroneously thought that the Great Commission was a call to overseas missions. I wanted to share the gospel of Jesus to strangers on another continent but God showed me that dark, cold night that there are people right here in my neighborhood who need Jesus, too. After that night, once my eyes were opened, I began to speak to my neighbors differently. I began to reach out to new neighbors with the mission of sharing Christ's love - however they needed to be shown.

The gospel is for ALL people. Recently, God has allowed me to go on two international mission trips. But that's only accounted for 16 days of my life. The rest of my days are spent with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, cashiers at the grocery store, strangers at the gas station, etc. ALL people need Jesus and we don't have to be international missionaries to share the love and light of Jesus with those placed in front of us by our Almighty Father in Heaven.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for always challenging us to go beyond our comfort zone. Thank you for your grace as we so often misunderstand your word. I pray that you guide us to be more mindful of the people around us. You are all powerful and you place us in every situation with a purpose. I pray we live our days with eyes wide open looking for ALL the PEOPLE you place before us in need of your love. Give us courage to share the truth with them. Thank you for the opportunities to serve you and others. Amen.

Holly Armstrong

