

I accepted the Lord as my Savior when I was 13 years old. My parents thought I would never make that important decision. My older brother was saved at the age of 10. I have been blessed to be raised by wonderful Christian parents. I was very active in my youth group when I was younger and that group was very active in missions. I was basically raised at Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, MO.

I loved to do so many things making it very difficult for me to choose a major to pursue, while attending the University of MO in Columbia. I love to teach and helped out during reading hour at a local elementary school when I was a freshman in college. I thought God wanted me to be a science teacher. Then, I enjoyed my science classes so much that I thought he wanted me to pursue medicine. I was accepted into respiratory therapy school and began working at the hospital and taking 19 hours of school. The burnout was inevitable for me. I wasn't really sure what I was supposed to do. My parents were moving at that time with my Dad's job in marketing for the US Postal Service. I decided I would move with them to Kentucky and work for the summer. I got a job with a dentist and loved it. He had all of the right connections and was able to get me into the Dental Hygiene Program at Western KY University. There I received my BS degree in Biology and Dental Hygiene.

I worked and lived in Evansville, IN for sometime before moving and working in Terre Haute, IN. I loved both of my jobs very well but not the relationship I was in. I went through a terrible struggle with my husband at that time, before finally deciding to divorce him and return to Missouri.

My parents had moved back to live in Springfield, MO in 1995. I had many phone conversations with them from Indiana. My parents were very active in Second Baptist and had been on some trips to Nicaragua through Project HOPE. My Dad would tell me stories over the phone and I could hear the excitement in his voice. He always told me he would love for me to go on a trip with him. I moved to Springfield at the close of 2000, and in 2002 I went on my first mission trip with Project HOPE, Second Baptist Church and my dad.

The very first trip I became hooked on "missions". I cried and didn't think I was actually going to be able to leave the small community we were working in at that time. I eventually made it to the plane and home. I really started to seek all different kinds of avenues of doing missions in the church. I was in the choir and helped out with the Second Act Drama team. I taught beginner's Spanish classes and taught Spanish through Second Baptist Spanish School. I went on all kinds of trips. I went on approximately three different trips to different countries every year. God was really working on me and preparing me in all kinds of ways.

In 2005 on a beach in Las Penitas, Nicaragua, during my quiet time, God really challenged my heart. He prompted me to ask the question to myself, "Could you really leave all that you have and GO?" I loved my family, my church, my job, my friends. I loved my life as it was. Could I really leave all that I was comfortable with and GO? God told me that I could do everything through Him and He would give me the strength. Shortly after that, in 2006, I accepted the position of Administrator of HOPE Central the base camp for Project HOPE in Managua, Nicaragua. I basically host incoming teams and manage the HOPE Central hotel. I have a wonderful staff of employees. All of them are godly men and women. I have been blessed through the Lord's hand and strength to have a women's bible study and participate in a dental ministry as well as my regular duties of being an administrator. I hope to see you soon.