



A HEART FOR THE NATIONS: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CALLED

In the second of this two part series, Tiffany Bass - Carmel's Preschool Assoc. Minister - reflects on her childhood calling to go to the Nations and what that looks like as she now calls South Charlotte home.

As a second grader, sitting in a classroom of a retired missionary teacher, I heard stories of places around the world that had never heard about Jesus. My heart was stirred.

When I was 20 years old, I spent five weeks of my summer in Nigeria, West Africa, observing how missionaries lived among a primitive people. I watched as the story of Jesus was shown in a village, projected up on a bed sheet hung between two trees. I witnessed firsthand the reaction of the Fulani tribe as they heard that Jesus died for them for the very first time.

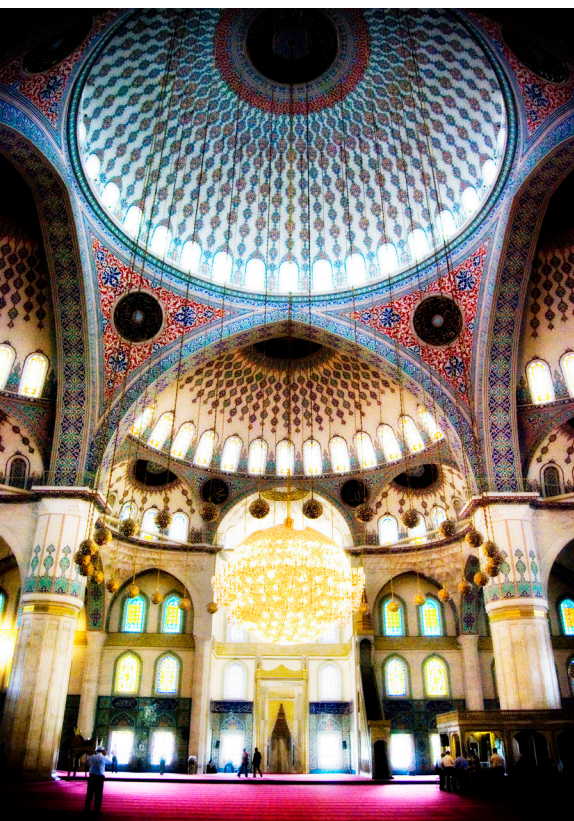


And I was called to go. Have you ever heard the whisper or shout of the Holy Spirit in your heart? That is what I heard, even as a 7-year-old sitting in a second grade classroom.

For 14 years David and I, along with our five children, had the rich opportunity to live among the Muslim people of Central Asia, building relationships and sharing the gospel with them. We laughed together, made language blunders and mistakes, shared life and death together and ultimately watched as the small church in our country grew! I was living my childhood dream and calling to go to those who had never heard of Jesus. We were working with a team of people who were there for the same purpose, sent out by churches in the United States, who prayed for us. We had a specific purpose, To Abide with Jesus, To Build Relationships, To Live the Gospel with Everything.

In 2017 we needed to come back to the States. The responsibility of our Nearest needed care in a different setting than where we were.

South Charlotte is a wonderful place, with so many people who know Jesus as Lord and Savior. There are churches everywhere. At our new home, Carmel, there are more members than there are believers in the entire country of 70 million people where we lived before! What light! What privilege we are now living in!



I'm sure you can imagine the confusion deep in my soul as I have established a new life in this sweet town of Matthews, NC. I belong here, right? I share a culture with this country, I speak the English language flawlessly, I can buy shredded cheese! But what about that call that I heard in my heart as a little girl? Did God change His mind in His purpose for me? How does that work here in South Charlotte?

As I listened to Pastor Alex roll out the BIG THREE that God has laid on the hearts of our leadership, I felt tears of joy wash over my soul. The purpose, the call - it hasn't changed! It is for YOU and for me! We are to share the love of Jesus with our children, our neighbors that are beside us and with those around the world who have never had the chance to hear. The Call is for every believer. The Call is urgent. The Call is right here, right now. Will you answer?



Carmel is committed to making disciples of those Nearest, our Neighbors and the Nations.

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