

We have a **Story** to Tell

“Allie’s story of faith and calling is something we can all connect with as Christians, whether our calling lies on another continent, in the office, or in the home. Allie sums it up well: “God speaks life. Go with the flow with whatever He calls you to for your future.”

Allie Crawford

is a thirteen-year-old who loves spending time with her family – and their fifteen chickens! – but even more than that, she loves spending time at Neema Village in Tanzania where she has seen the work of God come alive. When asked to sum up Neema in one word, she said “home” without a moment’s hesitation. When Allie’s mom, Janice, heard about GBC’s annual trips to Neema, she was immediately interested and started talking to her daughter about going. “She told me there were babies there.” Allie’s love and joy lit up her face when she thought of the children at Neema. “I really wanted to go when she said ‘babies!’”



Following Through With God

But, as Allie would learn throughout her experiences at Neema, “there’s more than just the babies.” Mothers and babies, or grandmothers, at Neema receive training in safe birthing practices and help supporting their families. The ministry also includes a church that welcomes the whole community. Allie and the other volunteers even got to visit a local Massai tribe, giving lollipops to their children and sampling traditional foods.

Allie loved her first visit to Africa. It gave her the opportunity to share her love and the love of Jesus with the babies at the orphanage. She knew she wanted to go again. What she didn’t know was that God had something very important in store for her second visit.

On the last night of the trip, she felt a clear calling to pursue full-time ministry at Neema. “The Holy Spirit just came through my whole body and said, ‘this is your place,’ she said.

In obedience to this calling, her family will be returning to Neema for two weeks later this year to serve and discuss with the leaders of Neema what Allie’s future there might look like. Allie looks forward to experiencing Africa again with more of her family. “I’m excited for them to see all God’s work there and why I get so excited to go. Why I love it there so much and have a heart for it.” I asked Allie how her experience had brought her closer to Jesus and she immediately replied, “Many ways!” In particular, she was touched by “seeing how much He’s done in other countries.”

Allie’s time in Neema was an important reminder of the omnipresence of God and how much He loves all the children of the world.

Since Allie is a young teen, her story should be especially inspiring to kids and students. She wants people her age to know “you’re not too young to go on a mission trip. When you’re called to do that, don’t be nervous about it and follow through with God.”

Following through with God is what Allie and her family are focusing on now, taking just one step at a time.

You can walk with them through prayer. Allie requested prayers for her family to rely on God throughout their future with Neema. That they will “trust that He will plan what He needs to plan.”

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Meet the writer - Lindsay Christianson
I’m a native Texan who loves good music, good food, and using written words to improve people’s day whether by teaching them something or just making them smile. I’m looking forward to helping the people of GBC bring their stories of Jesus to life for others to read.

