

South Carolina Women Answer the Call to Missions



Overview

Rwanda? Kenya? No trip sounded right. So, Katie kept searching for the perfect short-term mission trip on the International Mission Board's Go Experience website. Her women-only team from First Baptist Church, Honea Path, South Carolina, wanted a place where they could use their gifts and maybe look into a partnership.

After some prayer, Katie and co-leader, Jaclyn, opted for Rwanda but that's when the phone rang. It was the IMB. A volunteer request that matched FBC Honea Path even better had come in but there was a catch. It was in the Middle East during Ramadan.

It took all of two seconds for the team of seven women to say "Yes."

Following God's Call

"It didn't matter where it was to us," Katie explained. "This was the place God wanted us to go. The field workers needed an all-female team, used the same [gospel sharing] methods we trained on and use at our church and wanted to disciple local believers. The IMB couldn't have matched us any better. We were all in."

Being "all in" in the Middle East looked culturally different from in their small town in South Carolina. They left a community celebrating Easter and landed in a world observing Ramadan, when Muslims worldwide spend a month in fasting, prayer and reflection. This meant restaurants and coffee shops were closed during the day to observe fast. In many places, it is against the law to eat or drink in public during Ramadan fasting times.

Kassi had friends and family praying for her hunger. The team followed local customs of not eating in public places until it was time to break the daily fast.

"The prayers worked. We were never hungry," Kassi said. The team found the two cultures had something in common: hospitality. "Every house we visited; they fed us ... even packed a bag of food for us to take when we left. We were their guests and they wanted to take care of us."

[Read the full story.](#)

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