

Reflection on the life of a Christian Missionary Nurse: Rachel

Jennifer L. Posso

Cheryle Phenicie School of Nursing, Alliance University

NUR 301: World Perspectives: The Christian Nurse

Dr. Elenice Lima

March 6, 2023

Reflection on the life of a Christian Missionary Nurse: Rachel

Rachel is a nurse by trade in SouthEast Asia. Right before the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, Rachel joined Reach Beyond missionary after a short trip to help refugee women in the Asia Pacific region (Building Relationships, n.d). She was moved by her experience and decided that her goal as a Christian was to share the love of Christ by showing women of this region how valuable they are to her and to God. The women that Rachel ministers to are young girls who battle poverty, discrimination, and isolation. They are girls who were trafficked to become child brides and have little to no education, or access to health care and resources (Building Relationships, n.d). Although she was from a different religion than these young women, she found herself moved by the Holy Spirit in making Jesus known to those who have not heard of His goodness.

The women that Rachel ministers to are women that because they were trafficked, were now living in a new country, taken away from their families and forced to marry men who were strangers and bare their children without any consent (Building Relationships, n.d). Rachel explains that many of these women think this is normal since it has been normalized to them given that the other women around them have also been trafficked, thus sharing the same experiences (Building Relationships, n.d). However, due to lack of education, once they are carrying a child, they have no idea what this entails. They are not provided with information about changes pregnancy brings, what to expect during and after birth nor how to take care of a child. Furthermore, there is no access to prenatal, postnatal or pediatric care available to them.

As a missionary, Rachel established a perinatal health care program that educated and provided resources of prenatal and postnatal care, along with supplies to lead mothers and newborns to thrive physically, emotionally and spiritually. Moreover, one of Rachel's long-term goals was to maintain relationships with these women who have experienced an overwhelming amount of trauma. It is important to note that with different religious backgrounds and a

language barrier these women were wary of her. Nonetheless, Rachel was able to learn their language after months of practicing and in return gain the trust of these women on a different level.

Once Rachel was able to gain trust with many of these women, she was able to truly fulfill her goals as a missionary nurse. She was able to educate and care for expectant mothers, build relationships with them, empower them and teach them the love of Jesus. She revealed that starting this mission in a new country with a distinct religion was challenging and brought upon many obstacles, as she explains that these women were “entrenched in their own religion” (Building Relationships, n.d). However, she always listened to her heart in following what she knew Jesus was calling her for. Rachel expressed that “The goal of everything that I do is to build relationships that will allow me to share His love and eventually share the Good News (Building Relationships, n.d).” Although there are differences in religions, this does not stop her from spreading the news of Jesus, as she explains that this was the calling that Jesus had brought her to do and that she will follow her Savior and Shepard of her soul, while also leaving her family behind in order to be a saving grace to these young women who need of her and Jesus (Building Relationships, n.d). The women know that Rachel is a Christian, and with the growth of trust, they spend time with her on a personal and spiritual level - they cook together or go to the park together, demonstrating the level of connection that they were able to build.

Rachel’s work to commit herself as a missionary nurse is indicative of a woman who empowers women by seeing what they are lacking but also seeing that they are capable of so much more than they are diminished to. She provides them with the resources they need to survive as women, that not only includes women’s health care but also emotional support to this new shift of life that they had no choice to comply with. Her work is also empowering to soon to be nurses like me who are interested in missionary work. Her journey expresses how her trust in Jesus comes before any obstacle, which in her case was women from a different religion who were forced and trafficked out of their homes. It also shows the strength needed to be able to

help women in these situations. Personally, I get emotionally attached to people's stories and experiences but often drive myself away when I come across obstacles that I find I can't cross or when the barrier feels too large. However, this story really lit up the realization that I have to put more trust in Jesus and not diminish His calling for me. I often ask myself "how am I supposed to do that if ..." but there is no "if" with God, but "when." He can move any mountain, heal any sickness and fulfill any dreams that we have as long as we believe and understand that His plan is much greater than ours. For he already wrote out our story and knows the ending. We aren't here to write our story, that isn't the purpose of our life. Our purpose is to follow Him and love Him. To express our love of Him to Him and those around us that need Him too. As I come into my realization of doing missionary work, I will carry Rachel's story with me and will be inspired by a woman who trusted God, put him first and in turn was able to change many lives of women and tell them about the word of God so that they can meet Him too.

References

Building Relationships - Rachel's Story. Home - Reach Beyond. (n.d.). Retrieved March 6, 2023, from <https://reachbeyond.org/content/news/read/building-relationships-rachels-story>