

Savanna Sebastian

Worldview: Christian Nursing

Dr. Lema

March 6, 2023

### Betty A. Olsen

Betty Olsen was born in 1934 in Ivory Coast, Africa to her missionary parents. Olsen did not have a normal upbringing as most of her childhood was spent away from her family. She was in boarding school that was over 800 miles away from her family in Mount Dora, Florida. She decided that she wanted to dedicate her life to missionary work during her young age in high school. She worked as a nurse at Nyack Hospital, while attending Nyack College, now known as Alliance University, graduating with her major in missions. Olsen's path to becoming a Christian missionary worker was very difficult as she went through many obstacles and challenges to get to where she wanted. She started working in Africa, then moved to Chicago, and then went to Vietnam to serve as a missionary nurse with The Christian and Missionary Alliance. In Vietnam, Olsen worked at a hospital for people with leprosy, until she was captured, while attempting to escape. Throughout her life she struggles with her faith, but “she never showed any bitterness or resentment. To the end she loved the ones who mistreated her” (Alliance University).

Olsen had a great effect in her practice on spreading the gospel. Although it is not stated how she directly spread the gospel, what is known is how she kept her faith through the many hardships she faced. According to “Betty Olsen: Loving those who mistreat you”, it is stated “Betty constantly tried to keep up the spirits of the other prisoners, especially the Vietnamese Christians who had also been captured. Although she wasn't given much food, she would often save most of it to give to them. When Mike was at his sickest, she would also share with him

(pretending she wasn't hungry enough to eat all her food) and pray for him." She was the one who stayed strong when everyone else was not able to. When people were dying, she was the one who would force them to eat and drink, and she is the reason why many were able to live. She had an effect on the healthcare in the community as she went to serve in Vietnam during a very dangerous time, the Vietnam war was going on, but knowing there was a possibility of getting captured she still went to Vietnam because she knew there were people there that needed help. Her practice had an effect on her physical and spiritual life, because there was a point in her life where she felt far from God, she then realized the only way she would get the Lord's help, was to want his will and seek him. After she found her relationship with him, she went to the place where very few people had belief in Jesus. She states in her testimony "However, I am not concerned, and I am very much at peace. I know that I may never come back, but I know that I am in the center of the Lord's will and Vietnam is the place for me"(Olsen). She wanted to go somewhere to show and spread her faith.

It is very inspiring to know that someone who graduated from Alliance University has done such amazing things, regardless of the many struggles and challenges that were thrown at her. It is inspiring and very motivational for many of us who are going through a tough time, but that as long as we keep our faith and trust in the Lord, he will make things right for us. It makes me feel that even though we are struggling and there are people working so hard just to make ends meet, the Lord has bigger and greater plans for us. In order to get to the highest point, we have to start from the bottom. To know the Olsen was at a point in life that she was depressed to the point where she thought about committing suicide, but then was helped by a church youth counselor, and then goes on serve as a Missionary nurse in Vietnam shows that growth comes with time. As someone who is going through so much stress in life because of school and things

that are going on outside of school, although in the moment I know it feels like one of the worst feelings, I know at the end when I graduate nursing school and have changed and have become a stronger woman, I am going to look back at this time in life, and thank myself for continuing to keep going because there would be no growth if I did not go through the things that I am going through right now in life.

## References

Fasolino, A. (2018, April 22). *Betty Olsen: Loving those who Mistreat you*. The Restful Home. Retrieved March 6, 2023, from <https://therestfulhome.com/betty-olsen/>

Dianaleaghmatthews. (2017, October 29). *Faithful heroes: Betty Olsen, unselfish even in persecution* ★ Diana Leigh Matthews. Diana Leigh Matthews. Retrieved March 6, 2023, from <https://dianaleaghmatthews.com/betty-olsen/#.ZAalAOzMKqA>

*School of Nursing Legacy*. Alliance University. (n.d.). Retrieved March 6, 2023, from <https://www.nyack.edu/site/nursing-legacy/>

**Appendix A**

**Nyack College School of Nursing Service-Learning Project Proposal**

Student Name: Savanna Sebastian

If this is a group project, write down the names of your group:

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Date of Proposed Service-Learning: Summer

Service Learning Activity and Goal for the community: I would like to go to a community that is outside the United states and help volunteer at a hospital where there are children who need and more care.

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The Name of Supervisor/ Leader Signature & Comments: (If you do not have one, discuss your idea with a SON faculty or staff member and obtain his or her signature). I would reach out to professor Lebo or Dr. Thomas and ask them for assistance.

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Preparation: I would first connect with someone who is from the country that knows of locations in which could use our help. I would then research the hospital and reach out to someone in the hospital, as well talking to other faculty members and asking them on how previous student went about their services to other countries.

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