

Nicolette Soverall

Nyack Heritage

Dr. Steve Nehlsen

A.B. Simpson's life has been an extraordinary example of a life lived out for God. His vision and tenacity have been speaking to me as I embark on my pursuit of a purpose-driven life. I loved the fact that Simpson was not afraid of standing up for God. He loved the lord so much that he gave up the comforts of life, to do the will of God. What he accomplished is an example of what happens when we trust God and do His will. His work is still blessing the lives that he set out to change. I hope to live as he did, taking the risks, and having blind faith and love for God and His people.

What stood out to me the most was chapter 5 walking with God. I can honestly say the entire chapter resonated with me. I have been experiencing depression and burnout, and frustration from my prayers and expectations not being met the way I prayed for them to be realized I have prayed many times throughout my life, "I want to do your will", let me live on purpose, and keep me in the process. I meant this with all my heart and still do today, but as I faced trials and experienced great loss, I forgot that suffering is not only a part of my life but Jesus himself suffered. I appreciated what the author said, the key to any character is to be found in supreme motive. We all need to examine our goals, motives, and what drives us because it ultimately informs the people we become.

The Alliance School of Social Work has proven to be a place that fosters a comprehensive approach to education, with faith at the helm of all that we do. As a student, I am exposed to a wealth of knowledge in the form of our professors and am supported and encouraged to pursue

leadership roles. On October 5th 2020, Nyack's School of Social Work founded a Racial Justice Taskforce of which I am a part. This task force is a collaborative effort of the BSW and MSW students, alumni, and professors. Our task force acknowledges the immense value of a racially diverse and anti-racist profession and encourages the recognition of the experiences and standpoints of racialized group members. Our goal aims to achieve racial justice in our programs by confronting and dismantling both institutional and interpersonal racism.

The task force afforded me the opportunity of sharpening and foster my leadership skills by allowing me to organize and moderate the School of Social Work's first Black History Month panel of Alumni. Hosting the panel created a space where students were able to learn from their peers and served as an encouragement to current students that the sacrifices will pay off. The Alums were so grateful to be able to give back to the future social workers. Another major privilege offered to me was, being a part of a research team consisting of an MSW graduate student and the Directors of the BSW and MSW programs at Nyack College. We conducted a study on "Student Perceptions of Racism, Implicit Bias, and Other Forms of Discrimination within the BSW and MSW Programs at Nyack College: A Racial Justice Climate Survey." The presentation discussed the current literature on racial justice and social justice which helped Nyack's Social Work programs move towards more racially just policies and practices, with the hopes that our research can serve as a model for other programs and colleges. As a result, I had the honor of being a co-presenter at Nyack's Annual College Symposium.

In November 2021, I represented my school at the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) 71st Annual Convention in Glendale, California. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to present our research but more importantly, to glean from other researchers from all around the States. As a result of the work done through the Justice

Task Force, Nyack College is being honored with the Social Work School of the Year Award, selected by the National Association of Social workers (NASW-NYC). I hope to apply the skills that I have obtained through my experiences while working and being a student at Alliance University and to also use the intrinsically available gifts. I do have a genuine desire to serve God's people, helping people is a desire that is second nature to who I am. I believe in working hard to accomplish my goals and work well with others. I love learning, and every day acquiring the latest information, techniques, and mechanisms plays a key role in becoming the best me, so I can be a help to any organization I am a part of. During my journey to becoming a social worker, I hope to sharpen and refine the skills that I have, acquire new skills, create relations, and learn all that is required to be great.

I believe that God Has called me to be a prophetic voice in my generation. He has blessed me with wisdom, knowledge, and discernment to be used to minister to the persons that I am so blessed to have met and to those I will meet. I will use my spiritual gifts in conjunction with my education to go into the world and be the change that God requires me to be. My mission includes encouraging the people of God to keep on pressing on to reach the lost and give the good news of the Gospel. I am so blessed to be alive for such a time and to be a part of this wonderful intuition I am looking forward to the next steps and will continue to live my life on purpose.