
Hi Friends--

Back again to share about our Vision for 2020. At our recent DuHope Christmas party, I cast a vision, by sharing Luke 10:27, He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (NIV)

I love the words in The Passion Translation:

The religious scholar answered, "It states, 'You must love the Lord God with all your heart, all your passion, all your energy, and your every thought. And you must love your neighbor as well as you love yourself.'"

Love God with all your heart, your soul/passion, strength/energy, and your mind/every thought. Love your neighbor as well as you love yourself.

In 2019, our team focused a lot on trauma. Honestly, because I had burnt out and I was seeing my staff drop like flies. They were exhausted. They couldn't think and they couldn't hear anymore painful stories from our women. And I was so worn out, I couldn't help them. I took some time to rest and realized we were ill-equipped to do the job God had put before us. I like the quote, "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called." So we needed to be equipped.

"Trauma is the mission field of the 21st century. Trauma disrupts life, dissolves relationships and hinders faith development wherever it is experienced. As an expression of the Gospel, missional Christians follow Jesus into the world to care for the least of these suffering the effects of trauma", from the Global Trauma Recovery Institute.

My friend and trauma expert, Michael Hanegan, says that we are supposed to interrupt trauma, not be reactionary to it. DuHope was reactionary--we saw a problem of women in sex work and started a program. But now we have come to a place that we are interrupting the path their life was on by making a difference in these 11 womens' lives and the lives of their children.

The first concept in our trauma training is that you can't help someone else with their trauma until you have first addressed your own. Our staff went through an intensive training on identifying their trauma, processing through it, and heading towards healing. Trauma triggers can sneak up in mysterious places; we have to have the awareness to identify them and have a plan in place when they do.

Second thing we focused on is understanding that we live in a culture where everyone has complex levels of trauma. We must be aware of other people's trauma when dealing with others, whether that is our DuHope women or the woman reading our water meter. Everyone is walking around carrying "baggage" and we must be kind to everyone and give lots of grace when we see someone is acting in a way that seems directed at us, but could just be the exhaustion of carrying so much. My staff now uses statements like, "I think they were acting like that because of trauma" or "I'm being triggered and I need to take a break".

And above all, this is a broken world with broken people and we must give everything over to God who can carry all our bags with ease. His burden is easy, His yoke is light. We are to: Love God with all our heart, our soul/passion, strength/energy, and our mind/every thought.

Now, the last part is interesting: Love your neighbor as well as you love yourself. This implies you must love and be kind to yourself. I recite to myself that I am a daughter of the Most High King and want to treat myself that way. Then, we are supposed to love our neighbor. The next part of Luke 10 shows the expert of the law asking, "Who is my neighbor?". I believe my neighbor is whoever God puts in front of me. I believe right now, my neighbors are our 10,000 sisters who are trapped in sex work in Rwanda. At our recent strategic planning meeting I laid down 3 coins, the equivalent of about 30 cents. There are 10,000 documented sex workers selling sex for those 3 coins. We grieved and prayed over the 10,000.

2020 is about seeking the other sisters and interrupting more trauma with all our heart, soul/passion, strength/energy, and mind/every thought.

I feel very, very ill-equipped to interrupt trauma for 10,000 women, but God didn't not call the equipped, he equips the called. I say this often, but I never would've dreamed what God had in store when I said, "Yes" to Rwanda.

I'll be in touch with our plans! 2020 is going to be a big one, I can tell.

Send lots of prayers for our team and for the 10,000.

Grateful for your support--
Jamie