



# STUDENT JOURNEYS



Edna Klein

These are the best days of my life!



I am eighty-four years old, and since my youth, I have experienced a lot in the church.

I hadn't been involved in "ministry" for more than ten years and expected it would be that way for the rest of my days . . .

**. . . but God (I love that phrase!) had another plan.**

In 2012, I became part of a contemporary church—I never dreamed I would ever attend a church like this. I joined the prayer team and eventually became the co-leader.

Then, I started Charis Online courses a few years ago with my friend Patricia. I've taken a few self-paced courses but really enjoy the interactive courses where students share and encourage each other. Being a Charis Online student has done wonders in changing my focus.

Three years ago, on a mission trip with an evangelist friend of mine, I saw firsthand the plight of the poverty-stricken in Kenya.

A multitude of women are trapped in sex trafficking, and many end up imprisoned as a result.

If a woman has small children, the children live in the prison with them.



The prison would be considered unfit for dogs here in America. Each woman has a blanket and sleeps on the concrete floor. Their situation is desperately hopeless, as they are unable to pay the fine to be released. And even if they were released, there would be no place for them to go but back to the pit from which they were arrested.

The Spirit of God opened my heart to the hopelessness I saw in their eyes.

Last year, five other people and I established a non-profit foundation to free Kenyan women from the bondage of prostitution and to provide education and foster homes for street children.



The foundation partners with established and proven ministries to provide financial assistance to those in East Africa, rescue women from sex trafficking, and equip the women to learn a trade or open a shop to become self-supporting.

For me, this has been a broadening experience that has opened the way for growth in ways I never expected.

**To know that each woman represents a household that will never have to sell their bodies again brings me great joy.**

This July, my youngest daughter will be traveling with me to Kenya for her first mission trip. This will be my fourth. Then, in September, my friend Patricia and I will be attending the Charis Beacon, New York, campus (about a 2.5 hour drive) for our second year of Charis.



This is a program graduate who will be opening a business selling soap.



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If you would like to share your Student Journey, email us at [Online@CharisBibleCollege.org](mailto:Online@CharisBibleCollege.org).

A staff writer will contact you if your story is selected to be featured in the Charis Community.

