



STUDENT JOURNEYS

 Molly Smith

Africa has been my dream for as long as I can remember.

I knew ministry was in my future—missions, mainly. So, after high school and some college, I attended a Bible school in Oklahoma. Although there were good things about the school, there was also a lot of pressure, so much so that I felt stressed all the time. Some of the pressure came from the outside, and most of it was my own mindset of “Go now” and “Do more.” I wanted to be a missionary, but time was just going too slow.

I attended Charis Bible College’s *Campus Days* and decided that I would enroll there for the following year. I moved to Colorado that summer. But even when I was about to start school, for some reason, I wasn’t excited about it. I told my parents that I didn’t know what else to do, so I might as well go there.

After my move, I was still unsettled and didn’t have peace, so I moved back to Oklahoma after a month—before school even started.

**I spent the next year
just growing and learning
to relax in God.**

He blessed me with the most incredible job during that time, and I discovered new dreams for my life. After another year or so, my sister and I moved to Florida together to start a new adventure.



As with any move, I was excited, but I was still unsure of how this was going to get me to where I ultimately wanted to be. Even though I loved being with my sister, I felt like I was just biding my time until I could move back to Colorado and Charis and *finally* get on with my life. So many of my Bible school friends were traveling to or living on the mission field. I’d see their pictures online and feel like maybe I had missed God somewhere.

I tried to enroll at the closest Charis campus, but things just weren’t working out. My mom convinced me to check out the Distance Education program. I was hesitant at first because I really wanted the group environment that a physical campus would bring. But at that point, this was my only option.



If I was ever going to get to Africa, I had to start somewhere.

Once I started classes, the change happened almost immediately. I started thinking differently than I had been after only a week or two. The whole summer before, I kept thinking about my life and what I was going to do. But then it was like the Word started thinking *for* me. I started experiencing what Romans 8:6 says: *"To set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace"* (English Standard Version).

Finally, my mind was calm and I was actually happy. I had purpose again. My mind was being renewed, and I was definitely feeling the difference.

Attending Charis has started changing me, but not in the way I thought it would.

It has helped me to relax and realize that the life I'm currently in is okay. I know who I am. I have peace to work my job, read the Word, and allow God to change me day by day.

I no longer feel pressured to rush off to Colorado to finish three years in a hurry so I can get to Africa. It's funny; it seems like the opposite of what's supposed to happen, but...

God has shown me that He has a lot of little dreams for me He wants to fulfill along the way.

God is showing me just what it means to *"let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing"* (James 1:4, New King James Version).



Molly and her sister, Candace

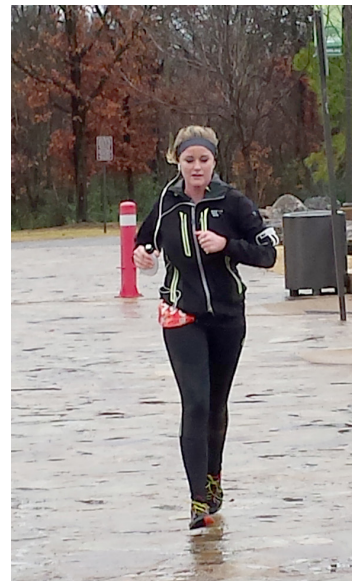
What I found with starting Charis Distance Education is that it's really easy to change your life. All it requires is time, sacrificing Netflix, and putting on a teaching or two.

Chip away at a trimester plan, and along the way you're going to be different.

Hopefully you'll relax into God. I'd hate for anyone to get stressed out about it.

I feel I've been saved from all that hype and pressure I experienced in the past. I want to do the right thing at the right time. Since starting online with Charis, I've learned how to relax in the day-to-day and not put time frames on my life. My life doesn't have to end up exactly like Andrew Wommack's. God has a plan for *me*. Whether it takes three years to finish or ten, I'm right on track.

My timeline has kind of fallen apart. And that's a good thing.



If you would like to share your Student Journey, email us at Online@CharisBibleCollege.org.

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

