

2021 M3 Conference
Q&A with Rebecca “Becki” Thompson, RN
“Make a Lasting Impact: Multiply Yourself!”

CLICK LINK TO WATCH SESSION: <https://youtu.be/pHlq9DrqbSo>

Rebecca, what advice would you have for a nurse considering a Master's in Nursing Education to return to the mission field as an educator?

I would encourage you to get your master's in nursing education if possible. You would then be well equipped to make a huge difference.

As a current nurse and nurse educator, what is currently the greatest need in the training of nurses?

The greatest need in the training of nurses in the developing world is the time commitment, people willing to invest the time it takes. Educating nurses takes time; the nursing programs can be two, three, and four-year long programs. Go and make the time investment to do this. Most of us who have set up programs did not have your level of expertise. I'm sure you would be a great resource.

What encouragement would you provide to those that have a heart to be where God wants them to be, whether they are a nurse, a doctor, or a mechanic?

I would encourage you to follow through and find out how you can get plugged in to where God is calling you to be. Talk to your pastor, a mission agency, a friend who is already serving, someone you hear through this conference – follow where God leads. God uses your gifts, and there are so many needs in so many countries. Where we were in North Africa, there is a tremendous need for education. I would encourage you to find someone who has either been or knows about the place you feel called to serve and ask how you can use your gifts there. All of your gifts can be used.

How did you overcome the fear as a mom for your children on the mission field, especially considering your childhood experience in missions?

It was something that was intentional. I remember sitting them down and praying over them with my husband. I had a choice, I could be someone who hovered over my children or I could trust God with them. I knew if I hovered and tried to control it myself, I would never do anything else; that would be my legacy. So, again, it was a choice with God. (I said to God) You took care of me with what I went through, I trust you to take care of my children as well. I could tell you some amazing stories of how God came through. They (my children) came to understand that God was not only our God, but He was also their God and their protector.

Can you discuss more about the benefit of identifying and investing in leaders and fanning that gift into a flame?

That was a really fun thing to do, to see them (Gabon/N. Africa nurses) develop. They ended up doing it (the work) so much better than we ever could. They are my heroes.

In the face of overwhelming needs, you kept your eye on making disciples, did you struggle with the thought of pushing aside discipling others and to only focus on attending to medical needs?

Absolutely we did! Fortunately, we had a good team with us, and we would go to God on our knees. We would ask God to help us through those problems, they were real problems, and they could have defeated us. God was so faithful, and it was just one day at a time. We couldn't look too far ahead because it seemed impossible. One day at a time, just go out and do what He asked you to do. The team with us was great, and we were very united and that was so important for us.

Is there any chance we could visit and help in the school you've founded in Northern Africa?

You can reach out to Rebecca Thompson directly via email at rjanethompson@gmail.com to inquire about service opportunities.

I was wondering how we can develop the skill of being a good storyteller and being able to relate with those in different cultures to share Christ with them?

I would look up "Storying," "Bible Storying," and/or "Disciple Making Bible Storying" online. The power of God's Word through Bible stories, without embellishing them, draws people to Jesus.

You have such a compelling story, but did you ever see your father again?

No, I've never seen him since that day. This was so difficult for me, but God helped me finally understand that He was still good and faithful (and trustworthy) even if I never saw him (my father) again. Someday I will (see my father again), and I have peace about that.

What was the relationship between your nursing program in Gabon and the government of Gabon?

We had a really good relationship with them; they all wanted our nurses! They wanted our graduates. We were contributing to the country. We weren't in the capital city where the schools were located; we were located in the southern part where there was a great need (for education). So, they (Gabon government) were appreciative. They came and saw our facility and were grateful for it.