

# Are You Being Called... and Will You Answer?

By Gina Nie – 2020 Go Team Member

Each year, CPC sends a group of people to travel as the “Senegal Go Team” – representatives of the church and the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to our Christian ministry partners, friends and those they meet along the way.

Sometimes God asks us to do things that are not on our bucket list. Jonah comes readily to mind. When God asked him to travel to Nineveh, not only did he flee the physical presence of God (Jerusalem), he proceeded to traverse all the way across the Mediterranean Sea toward Tarshish. That is well over 2,000 nautical miles and an extremely drastic and gutsy move on his part. And as we know, God went to equally drastic lengths to bring him back around to his original destination and his original call. Nineveh.

There are many, many other stories in the Bible where people have been asked to step forward to answer God’s call. Do you think God is calling YOU to action?



Members of the 2020 Go Team who answered God’s call to be a part of the travel group. Also shown are ministry partners and fellow Christians, Malek and Feluine Fall and Leopold Diouf.

His invitation to take action comes in different ways for everyone. It might be an echoing thought that you can’t seem to shake. You try to stop that nagging thought but no matter what you do, it comes back again. Or it could be that your ears perk up when you hear a particular scripture or song. Maybe it happens during a regular conversation or shows up in the form of an email. It could even be unexplained chill bumps. Or, a vivid dream. It could even be an advertisement on the radio, no lie.

Is saying YES to God’s call easy? Noooo! It is NOT e-a-s-y. Likely, it will stretch your comfort zone well beyond its existing boundaries. It could expose you to scary things like bugs, both visible and invisible. You might get hot and sweaty or cold and shivery. Your eyes might get dusty and you might get thirsty. Sun exposure, yep. You might have to eat foods you have never seen before. There could be sore muscles and headaches and itchy places. You might not get the 8 prescribed hours of sleep every night. There might not be running water for your daily shower. The good news - you are highly unlikely to be swallowed by a giant fish. 😊

If and when you start thinking about responding to God’s call to action, you will begin to hear things in your head like: ‘I am not good at airline travel’ and ‘I don’t do well with heat/cold’ and ‘I really can’t afford it’ and ‘what if I get sick’ and ‘I hate asking people for money’ and ‘I don’t know the Bible well enough to go on a mission trip’ ‘I have a bad back/knee/ankle/other body part’ ‘what about work/kids/etc.’ and ‘I am too busy’ or ‘I am too young/old’ and the list goes on and on and on....

And...if you succumb to the doubt-y thoughts in your head and say no to God's call, the enemy wins. You see, the enemy is the one putting the doubt in your head and would love to be too busy or too anything-else to ever consider saying yes to God.

But...if you do say YES, here are some of the gains you will likely experience:

- expanding your world view
- learning how to greet others in their native language,
- experiencing a culture,
- seeing God in a way you have never before,
- crying more than you have ever before,
- laughing more than you thought possible,
- praying for all you are worth,
- touching others more deeply than ever before,
- experiencing joy in new ways - (the singing and dancing kind of joy, not just the oh, that's nice kind of joy),
- giving hope to seemingly impossible situations,
- and most importantly, growing closer to a most amazing and loving God!



Laughing and sharing with students at the girls cooking school ministry

Are you hearing God's call to join the 2021 Senegal GO team? Are you scared? Do you have doubts? If so, I would like to meet you for coffee. I would like to share stories with you about stepping out for God. Please call me at 360-666-2737 or email me at [gina.nie@tydalebt.org](mailto:gina.nie@tydalebt.org).

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To learn more about our mission in Senegal, visit <https://columbiapresbyterian.org/ministries/missions> and select the bubble marked "Forms and Service Opportunities" to view the 2021 Trip Informational Sheet and the Go Team application form.



If you have any unanswered questions or issues navigating to the information, you can request help by emailing [senegal@columbiapresbyterian.org](mailto:senegal@columbiapresbyterian.org) and we will assist you.

### **Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) - The Great Commission**

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."