

# FROM WEST AFRICA TO WEST XMOOR



By Paulette Rogers

"God is working! God is working!" That is what she shouted in praise, jumping up and down with a hug for me. Yes, this is what actually happened at Kids Connection that day. Betsy (I will call her that) came to Kids Connection to get some things for needy family members. She had "shopped" and then visited with me, sharing praises and prayer requests. She expressed gratitude to God for Kids Connection and its impact on her family and others. "Such a powerful and important witness for Christ," she added. "That is what I am," she said. "I am an evangelist!"

Praise God!

Betsy then made a specific prayer request for a friend's salvation who resides in Senegal, West Africa. Her friend is Muslim and a successful businesswoman and influential leader in her village. We will call her friend,

"Amitta." Amitta is admired and respected in her community. People listen to her and want to be like her; however, it saddens Betsy that Amitta does not know Jesus. Betsy met Amitta while she was on a mission trip several years ago, and has kept in contact with her through e-mail and FaceTime. Betsy is preparing to go to Senegal in a few months and wants us at Kids Connection to be praying for Amitta's salvation. Betsy added, "If Amitta would become a Christian, many in her village and market would also become Christians."

The Muslim history began in the 7th century, culminating in the vast global presence of Islam today. In Senegal, 97% of the people are Muslim. We prayed for Amitta and the people of Senegal. After we prayed, Betsy's cell phone rang. Betsy was most apologetic looking at her phone and said, "Who is calling?" Oh my, it was Amitta on

FaceTime calling from Senegal! Betsy and I were both thrilled and Betsy introduced me to Amitta. I was able to briefly "visit" with Amitta. There was a lot of smiling.

Amitta, too, was thrilled. We could not believe it. Betsy had already told Amitta about Dawson's Kids Connection and how the people of our church care about and for others in Birmingham because they love Jesus.

Amitta expressed her gratitude to me and our church for loving God and loving others. Betsy told Amitta she was bringing her a new Bible that I had just given to her. Amitta said that she would read it. Amen and amen.

After Betsy finished talking with Amitta, I asked Betsy to pray again for Amitta, thanking God for His perfect plans and perfect timing. Betsy said, "God is working, God is working, God is working." Yes, He is.

In addition to recognizing God's perfect timing with this witness to Amitta, there was God's perfect preparation of the Dawson family for this encounter. There are numerous Kids Connection volunteers. Two weeks before this visit, another Kids Connection volunteer, Cheryl Turner, asked me if I had any information about Islam, as she had visited with someone the previous week who was Muslim and wanted to know how Islam compared to Christianity. My husband, Bill, had information on Islam that I shared with her.

I recommended that Cheryl talk with Mary Jackson, our Prayer Support Team Leader, suggesting that copies of that material be reproduced and left with our other resources to share with Kid Connection shoppers. Mary had this material duplicated, placed with our other resources in the Prayer Support area, and notified our team about this resource the previous week. These materials would be accessible for team members to learn more about Islam as well as share with shoppers as appropriate.

Then, the very next Tuesday, Betsy comes to Kids Connection concluding her shopping with a visit in Prayer Support. I had visited with her before and she remembered me. After visiting with Amitta on FaceTime and praying again, Betsy said, "I wish I knew more about Islam. I really wish I had some material about it to take with me and share with Amitta." Amazingly, I was able to give her just what she wanted and needed.

Deuteronomy 31:8 tells us, "It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you." God is always preparing the way. And, yes, Jesus is always the Way (John 14:6). This story is just one example of how God is working through Kids Connection. There are many more. Praise God and give all glory to Him!



**Paulette Rogers** has worked as a teacher, a youth minister at Second Baptist Church in Houston, and as Single Adult and Children's Minister at Dawson. She currently serves in multiple volunteer roles at Dawson. Paulette is married to Dr. Bill Rogers and they have three children and 11 grandchildren.

DAWSON'S CHURCH FAMILY IS ALSO WORKING ALL THE TIME WITH KIDS CONNECTION. THERE ARE MANY VOLUNTEERS SERVING ON DIFFERENT TEAMS, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, ON DIFFERENT DAYS, DOING DIFFERENT SPECIFIC TASKS; HOWEVER, ALL ARE SERVING OTHERS SO CHRIST MAY BE SHARED AND LIVES TRANSFORMED. THESE TEAMS INCLUDE:

#### DONATION & OPERATIONS

- Donations are received in the Kids Connection van located in Dawson's north parking lot. It is always open. Charitable donation receipts are available.
- Sort and organize donated clothing, shoes, books, and toys.
- Stack, hang up, and display items in the retail space where clients shop.
- Organize and clean donated books and purchase Christian books from used bookstores to supplement donations.
- Repair, clean, and organize toys.

#### RETAIL

- Serve on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and/or one Saturday a month.
- Accompany clients while shopping to ensure they feel valued, cared for, and experience the love of Christ through meaningful interactions.

#### RECORD KEEPING

- Prepare forms to be completed by the Retail Team and Prayer Support Team.
- Maintain ongoing records of clients.

#### PRAYER SUPPORT

- Serve on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and/or one Saturday a month.
- Meet with clients to listen, offer encouragement, pray together, share the Gospel, and present them with a Bible as a gift.

#### GREETERS

- Welcome clients upon arrival and confirm their appointment and related information.
- Help clients put things in their vehicles as they leave.
- Organize records for teams to use on shopping days.

#### LIFE GROUPS

- Donate and organize items/ money for packets of school supplies for students.
- Donate and organize items/ money for Christmas stockings for children.
- Help with other specific needs or short-term projects.
- Commit to cleaning the Kids Connection space once per month.

To learn how you can be a part of **Kids Connection**, please email [info@kidsconnection.shop](mailto:info@kidsconnection.shop).

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