



Volontør

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When you think of missions, what comes to mind?

What you probably think:

Tropical or Warm Country

Impoverished People

Evangelism

International

What my mission was like:

Cold

Wealthy People

Very Little Evangelism

International



Things I was told before and after I went on my mission:

“Wow that sounds like a vacation!”

“I think that is a bit too first world for me.”

“Why would you go THERE.”

“Europe does not need missionaries.”

“ Aren’t they all Atheists?”

“Didn’t Christianity come from Europe? Why would you need to go there?”

And much, much more.

Doesn’t everyone needs Jesus? When did we start limiting who needs Jesus?



I was a missionary to Denmark as an Assistant Dean for 11 months.

Denmark

- 99% literacy rate
- One of the happiest countries in the world
- Free healthcare I was able to benefit from
- Has a national religion although it is a more secular country- Lutheran
- Mostly white population with pockets of immigrants and refugees from all over the world.



Vejlefjordskolen

- A boarding school with hundreds of day students and 200-250 boarding school students.
- Adventist School that feels more Christian influenced.
- Boarding students from 13-21.
- Gymnasium and Efterskolen.
- Co-Ed, no dress code.
- Not like American SDA boarding schools.





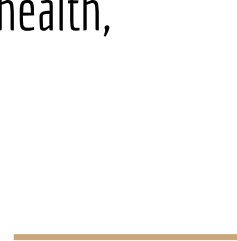
I went to Denmark because I wanted to understand why some of the most privileged people in the world need Jesus. Did I get the answer?





Story time

Abuse, neglect, gangs, health,
affection, love.



Details

- Several students dealt with emotional and sexual abuse.
- We had a gang come on campus asking for our students of color in a derogatory way. They used a very offensive word.
- Racism is a huge issue in Denmark, especially against people from the middle east.
- I was constantly ill the entire time I was there
- The students craved attention and loved to be active.
- The school had so many fun outings.
- The girls loved to talk about relationships with me.
- Holidays were the best in Denmark.



My favorite parts of my mission

- I met the most amazing people.
- I learned how God is in people who do not even believe in him.
- I learned how to side aside personal biases.
- Created a safe space for the girls in my dorm.
- Applied my Social Work skills.
- Found my voice and roots for my passion
- Learned endurance, perseverance, and true grit.
- Made amazing friends- the other volunteers.
- My amazing boyfriend who called me daily.





My greatest struggles

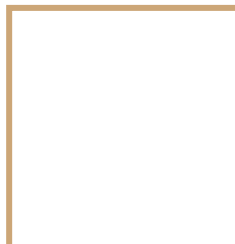
Racism, Mental Health, Loneliness

- Mental health issues I had prior to my mission.
- Seasonal depression.
- Getting verbally abused by students daily.
- Lack of structure, rules, and support for students.
- Physically boundaries being crossed.
- Lack of personal space and the schools poor hygiene.
- Making sure my inner turmoil did not affect the students.
- Anger at the world for not telling the truth about missions.
- Learning how to navigate discussions about racism.
- Learning how to deal with racism with students.
- Learning about how racism has impacted Denmark.
- Long distance relationship with my boyfriend.

My answer?

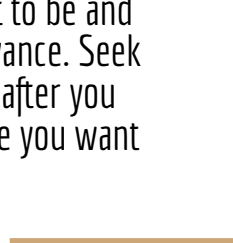
Everyone needs Jesus, especially people who have it all. The people who are the most privileged and cared for have the hardest time asking for help.

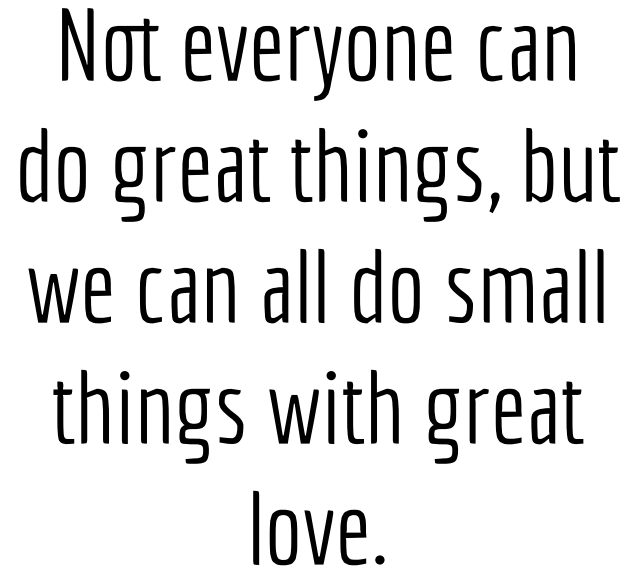




My advice to you

Only be a missionary if you want to be and are called. Research a year in advance. Seek counseling before, during, and after you mission. Think twice about where you want to serve and why,





Not everyone can
do great things, but
we can all do small
things with great
love.