



DORDT COLLEGE

Dordt Voice, 2016-

Volume 65
Issue 1 Fall 2019

Article 19

Growing into God's Purpose

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Recommended Citation

Westra, Amy (2019) "Growing into God's Purpose," *Dordt Voice, 2016-*: Vol. 65 : Iss. 1 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol65/iss1/19>

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GROWING INTO GOD'S PURPOSE

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" It's a question we are asked often throughout our lives.

For many students, the nonchalance of middle school—"I don't know; I have lots of time to figure that out,"—disappears and, by the end of high school, is replaced by fear and anxiety about what major to study, what career path to pursue, and what job to accept.



In my role as associate director of the Career Development Center, I have the privilege of hearing the hopes and dreams of students. Sometimes they are presented timidly, with fear and anxiety nearly extinguishing any excitement about the possibilities. Students can be so afraid of "getting it wrong"—choosing what they see as the wrong career or wrong major. It is at this point that my privilege shifts to responsibility. I have the incredible responsibility to steward these hopes and dreams by helping the students identify a path forward.

Privilege, responsibility, and, ultimately, fulfillment. When I see a student catch a glimpse of what their future vocation might look like, I witness a bit of fear giving way to excitement.

I want to see students live out the purpose that God has instilled in each of them. I want to hear the stories of how they are impacting their communities, their workplaces, and their families 10, 15, and 20 years down the road. And I hope that maybe all can experience the joy and energy that comes from knowing we are right where God wants us to be.

AMY WESTRA

Westra: Growing into God's Purpose

demonstrating the love of God in word and in deed.

In Paraguay, Lieuwen works with a microfinance project to assist women living in severe poverty, issuing microloans that allow them to start their own businesses so they can provide for themselves and their families. In the Middle East, Lieuwen works with refugees and displaced people. GAIN partners with churches to hand out bags of blessing: food and nonfood items that displaced families need. Alongside both projects, people have an opportunity to learn and grow spiritually, if that is what they desire.

Lieuwen also leads teams of volunteers to the field. She's taken one team to Lebanon, one team to Ukraine, and three teams to Paraguay.

"I really love helping other people experience how God is at work in the world," she says. "It's so fulfilling and rewarding; I feel like I'm making a difference. And the longer I'm here, the more I can look back and see that



PHOTO SUBMITTED

To learn more about Lieuwen's work with Global Aid Network, visit globalaid.net.

it was truly God who called me here. He is using my skills and abilities to be his hands and feet. It's really humbling to know that we can be part of God's redemptive work in the world."

KATE HENRECKSON



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