

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION



DANCING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On a sunny day in Bellville South, South Africa, a sea of women, young and old, are dancing and singing — full of life. The lyrics “I dance ‘cause I love; dance ‘cause I dream; dance ‘cause I’ve had enough; dance to stop the screams” ring out. Among them is a young woman from the United States, Abby Henderson, smiling and caught up in this one-day celebration of women’s empowerment that she helped organize.

Abby is serving here through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, where she is working at the invitation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa, learning about their challenges and joys. Along the way, she’s had an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young women through teaching dance.

In Bellville South, the challenges of hunger, homelessness, unemployment, rape, drug abuse and lack of education are widespread for women and men. “One of the most difficult parts of this year has been learning to see God in moments where I would be tempted to say God is not present. God is present everywhere, always,” Abby says. “I have begun to learn to see God in all the heartaches, as well as the joy.” Young adults serving around the world are supported by contributions from family and friends, ELCA members, congregations and the ELCA churchwide organization through Mission Support.

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ABBY HENDERSON



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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