

Have you ever experienced or learned of something and just knew from the very beginning it was laid in your lap by God? Three years ago, Alice Noblin, the Courtesy Chair for Virginia's Christian Women Connection entered the doors of New River Valley Orthotics & Prosthetics in Blacksburg, VA. She had no idea what was about to occur. She had gone there with her husband, Charles to purchase a pair of compression stockings to help him recover from his broken leg. During the course of this visit she saw something that captured her interest and her heart, Hope to Walk. She asked Philip Johnson, the CPO about this program and discovered he was making artificial legs for \$100.00 each and providing them at no cost to recipients in Honduras. He further explained that artificial legs made for us in the United States could cost over \$5 to \$6 thousand dollars, but if you had insurance, most of the cost would be covered. In Honduras, the people are not so fortunate to have any type of insurance. The more they spoke, the more she was amazed with Phil's story of how they flew to Honduras and fitted 5 to 6 persons a visit. He encouraged her to watch the Hope to Walk videos and see the work they were doing. Upon leaving, she asked for a business card and wrote their website on the back so she would remember the name. Not only was she amazed this charity was occurring not more than four miles from her home, but she had never heard of it. After talking with Phil, she watched the videos of recipients in Honduras receiving prosthetics from Hope to Walk. Alice could not get the image of grown men with tears streaming down their faces walking and running for the first time in years; a young teenage mother hobbling with a board covered in rags to protect under her arm and working for pennies a day to feed her young child; and also the images of a grandmother who cried, laughed and smiled at having her despair disappear in being able to take care of her family once again, and story after story.

Alice returned two weeks later to pick up her husband's compression stockings and talked more with Phil about Hope to Walk. He showed her a prototype limb he was working on in Blacksburg that would go with him on his next trip to Honduras. He explained how they could actually make the limbs for \$100.00. According to Alice, it looked like a wooden foot and a broom handle with a cup for fitting onto their limb. But, for them it was freedom. She thought how spending \$100.00 for a nice dinner with family and friends changed her life for an evening, yet \$100.00 for a leg in Honduras would change a person's life forever!

Alice spoke of this program with her friends at Blacksburg First Church of God. When her State CWC president, Racheal Baez was planning missions programs for their annual Family Camp and was meeting with her officers, which Alice is a part of as Courtesy Chair, she scheduled Phil Johnston to speak of his mission work with Hope to Walk. Following this presentation, she met Phil who was purchasing towels and sheets for his upcoming trip and he shared with her concerning the great need for linen and how he tries to take some when he goes on his trips. She told him of how the ones who had heard his presentation were so impressed with his work. He thanked her and left the store. But, Alice had other plans in the back of her mind.

When arranging Virginia's CWC foreign mission projects, Alice thought Hope to Walk would be a good program to sponsor and she presented her idea to their board. The officers all agreed and the plan was put into action. They just completed this project in April and have raised over \$3,300 thus far for this program, with more funds to arrive over the next month or so. Praise the Lord for his goodness and mercy!

Alice knows God put her in contact with Phil Johnston for a very specific reason and it was not just for compression stockings. She gives God all the credit for using her to make this program known to the Virginia Christian Women Connection and see it get funded to provide more limbs for those in Honduras. She thanks God as she watches her teen age grandsons (one of which is the same age as the young mother) and their friends on two healthy legs and prays for the 16 year old mother, the father who is now able to work, the grandmother, and all the others in Honduras who have or will receive a limb from God through Hope to Walk.