

When Our Life Becomes Part of Someone Else's Life, Everyone's Life is Better | Domestic Mission Fest | October 21, 2018

Acts 10: 1-47, Prov 11:25, John 10:10

Opening: Today's speaker is Donnita Travis, founder and executive director of By the Hand Club for Kids. Donnita received her MBA from Northwestern Kellogg School of Management in 1996. Awards and recognition include Today's Chicago Woman "100 Women Making a Difference" (1998); Northwestern Kellogg School of Management Social Entrepreneur of the Year (2010), the Chicago Bible Society Gutenberg Award (2010), and Mayor Daley's SAGE Award (2010). Donnita left her profession as an advertising executive to follow God's call to found one of the largest after-school mentoring ministries in the country.

Context: Two weeks ago we explored telling **our** STORY as a dimension of our "Other Six" days of the week. Last week we saw a vivid summary of the attributes of a Disciple, surely a way to aspire to **BE** in our "Other Six". This week we have the privilege of hearing Donnita Travis' story of how God's Story intersected with her story and led her to found By the Hand Club for Kids. Perhaps the inspiration can begin a new chapter in your story!?!?

The Child at Risk—Becoming Part of Someone Else's Life

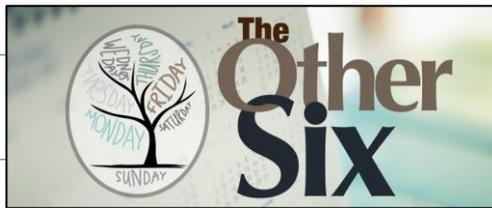
Since you heard the message by Donnita Travis what have you been thinking about?

We often hear stories about too many sports, too many practices, too many commitments—driving here, picking up there—which is good and full and stimulating. Can you imagine the need for a "school's out to bedtime" resource for your child? What idea was most startling to you?

The Acts 10 story of Cornelius and Peter is a miraculous example of God's intervention into time and space. Had God not spoken would Peter have ever cracked his Jewish traditions, his tribal tendencies taught to him by the culture he was immersed in? Of course, there is no answer to that question because God did intervene. But the parallel question for us is important. Are we immersed in a culture and tribal tendencies that blind our vision to see the need Donnita spoke of?

Donnita closed with a progression, talk about what you have learned here.

- Children are at risk.
- Chicago is in Crisis.
- Jesus is working.
- Kids and families are waiting for us to join Him
- And when we do, we are blessed.



Practice of the Week: Pray for the Children

As you consider the resources your children or grandchildren have on a day to day basis, or even the resources you had as a young school goer, do you feel challenged by the gap you have just learned about? How can you pray for these under resourced little ones? Can you help meet the needs?

Family Formation: Matt 18:5 Welcoming Children

Jesus had a special place for children. Talk about school life with your kids: teachers, homework help, safety, facilities etc. Get them to say enough about it that they can realize how many resources they have. Then talk a little about what you learned from Donnita and the contrast it represents to the school life your kids experience. Maybe the gap will be too big for the kids to imagine but try to get them to understand. Pray for people and resources to fill the gap for kids that don't have safe, loving and stimulating schools. Let the kids pray—see what they say.

Additional Resources: Google (or Bing) “Helping kids in Chicago” to find an amazing breadth of organizations working to fight, repair, improve the plight of Chicago youth.

Look at the list of Christ Church partner ministries that are represented in our Mission Fest and get to know what we are doing to help kids at risk.

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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