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# Witnessing for Jesus

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## Witnessing for Jesus

BY MELISSA ANN RUHUPATTY

What does it take for a mission to set sail? A small packet of GLOW tracts, a Chicago-bound ticket and a song in the heart.

March 20 saw ten daughters of Christ head to the big city with directions to have fun while witnessing and witness while having fun. We were only normal teenage girls, part of a Thursday night Girls' Bible Study held at the home of Micheal Goetz, Pioneer Memorial Church youth pastor, who felt that we could do something to step up and reach out.

To glow is to shine, to radiate, to exhibit an effect. After weeks of learning to cultivate the beatitudes of Christ through Ellen White's book, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, we felt that the pursuit of the character of Christ called for some kind of service as a public expression of our devotion to Him. And what better way to accomplish the mission of being a "city on a hilltop" (Matthew 5:13 NLT) than by radiating the effects of His love through our lives?

Our goal was to roam the Magnificent Mile and leave Chicago with an empty GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) packet in our pocket by spreading blessings all around. Through our Christ-filled words and actions, we found ways to reach out to people for Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Each GLOW tract we handed out was a little booklet with interesting stories and ideas relating the secular world to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each could be a spark with which God could ignite a new mission.

One such spark came through the form of song. Gathered together, right under the famous Cloud Gate, we sang hymns boldly and joyfully, and we watched as people gathered around us, absorbed by the timeless truths set into rhyme and rhythm. Among the people we reached, in that one instant, was a security guard, a cluster of young college students and a pair of photographing tourists.



Melissa Ann Ruhupatty

And so our mission continued. We GLOWed the cash registers of Panera and Starbucks, discreetly placed GLOW tracts in the Lego and Apple stores, and stowed away more GLOW tracts in creative places in the American Girl, Forever 21 and Disney stores. Our journey down the Mile included GLOW tracts being handed out to random people on the street accompanied with a warm smile and a bouncy step. Homeless people, store clerks, a gay-rights' pamphleteer, even the train conductor on the way home were GLOWed. Whomever we were impressed to GLOW, we GLOWed.

Life-changing could not even begin to describe the effects of our mission. For us, the experience was exhilarating, bringing out spiritual talents and gifts for social connection and encouragement that we never realized we possessed, and igniting a passion to fully live our ministry. We had prayed fervently that through our efforts at least one person's life could be touched by our character and that through our good deeds God might be glorified (see Matthew 5:16). Who knows? One day we may learn for certain that a great harvest was reaped because of this small, simple act of ministry.

Ten daughters of Christ now stand as witnesses for Jesus, testimonies in our hearts and ready to GLOW further in a world that hardly knows Jesus. We did our part; God has the rest under control. All it takes to start a spiritual wildfire is a willingness to go and GLOW.

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Melissa Ann Ruhupatty was born in Manado, Indonesia, and grew up in Perth, Australia. She graduated from Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, in May 2013, and will attend Andrews University next year. She loves to read, write, sing and play badminton. God willing, she plans to pursue a career in international relations.