

Linda Kitchen

On mission in Flagstaff, Arizona

◆ **Younger Years**

Growing up in North Central Indiana, I attended Northfield High School and was very involved in athletics, music, 4-H, youth group and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. My family, including my parents, 3 siblings and I, were regular churchgoers. At the age of 15 I understood my sinful nature and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior while at a weekend FCA retreat. I chose education as my career choice, because I felt I could affect many people's lives through the classroom and one-on-one opportunities.

◆ **College Years**

I pursued degrees in Physical Education, Athletic Training, and Coaching while attending Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. I participated in Division I athletics including basketball and lacrosse. In addition I was also very involved with a campus ministry reaching out to college students and others in the community. Upon graduation in 1986, I accepted my first teaching/coaching position in Cleveland, Ohio.

◆ **Professional Career**

For 2 years I taught K-12 and coached field hockey, basketball and lacrosse. The experience was challenging and provided insight and reflection on how God wanted to use my life. I moved back to Indiana to teach Recreation Management at Indiana Wesleyan University and to attend graduate school at Ball State. At this time I became involved with the campus ministry, Reliant Mission. Upon receiving my Masters Degree in 1990, I began teaching Fitness/Wellness, Athletic Training, and Physical Education professional courses at Ball State University. During the 5 years I taught at Ball State, I served as the Faculty Advisor for the campus ministry and enjoyed working with students in a variety of ministry roles, including mentoring, music team vocalist, leadership facilitator, and a life group leader/coach. During this time, I began more and more to see and live out the "big picture" while capturing the vision of reaching the lost for Christ.

◆ **Vision/Ministry**

During the summer of 1995, my life moved in another adventurous direction leading me to Orlando, Florida, as a church planting team member. In 1998 I went on staff with Reliant to reach teens through high school ministry. Mid-summer 2003 I was asked to consider being a part of assisting a Reliant church plant in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. God called me once again to step out in faith to pursue Him and make Him known.

I moved to Amsterdam in November 2003 to reach out to young Dutch and Europeans in a very international and spiritually dark city of less than 800,000 inhabitants where only 1-3% has a relationship with God. My ministry roles involved cultivating relationships in different subcultures, such as people in my neighborhood, women I met through my Dutch classes, and those I meet while giving English tours for 5 years at the Corrie ten Boom house in Haarlem; all with the goal of sharing God's love and the gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition, I served in management over our missionary team and disciplined young Christian women and coordinated mission trips to minister to orphans in Karai, Kenya.

Then due to the refugee crisis in Europe, from 2015-2019 my main focus was reaching out to immigrants, refugees and displaced people groups mostly from Muslim backgrounds through a ministry model called the Four Fields. We prayed for and sought "persons of peace" to share the gospel with and ultimately to see them multiply their lives into others to begin "churches": small groups of people meeting together as they grew in their faith. ^[L]_[SEP]

For nearly 35 years I have worked with young people through education, athletics, mission trips to Kenya and many ministries influencing their lives by sharing God's love and encouraging biblical values. God has provided many opportunities for making an eternal impact in the lives of youth, young professionals, orphans and immigrants for which I am very blessed and grateful.

After nearly 15 years in the Netherlands I left in September 2018 in order to be near and care for my elderly parents and mother who had terminal cancer and passed away in November. Now in this new season of ministry reaching out to Native Americans in the Flagstaff area, I pray many will come to faith in Jesus and carry on the Great Commission.

◆ **Goals**

My heart's desire is to be effective in ministry through my life example and whatever path God places me on. I trust that each aspect of my life's work will draw people to God and assist them in strengthening their walk with Jesus Christ, in addition to discipling them for making an eternal impact. In order to accomplish this, I am responsible for maintaining a Reliant Mission ministry team to partner in both financial and prayer support in order to stay on mission.

E-mail: linda.kitchen@reliant.org

Cell Phone: 480-567-5363

www.reliant.org

Address: PO Box 18146, Munds Park, AZ 86017

Website: www.lindakitchen.org

Give securely online: www.reliant.org/linda.kitchen