

Ellen Thomas – Cincinnati Christian School – Cincinnati Christian High School

The average life expectancy for an American citizen is only 77.97 years.

That is not very long, considering the average percent of your life you spend sleeping is 33.3%. At any moment, any one of us could die. Only God knows when our time is up. Therefore, we need to make the most of our lives and follow God and the plans he already has for each of us. After pondering about whom I have affected in my life, I have narrowed it down to three groups of people.

I have affected the lives of my family. I am the youngest member of my family. I grew up going to church every Sunday. I have a huge impact on my family. My parents' whole life changed when they had my brother and me. My parents both work hard everyday to keep our family running. I am very grateful to have such loving parents. Therefore, I try to impact their lives as they have mine. I try to be kind and say caring things to my parents and family. I help them out when I can, and I try to make their day better. I think I have a mostly positive impact on my older brother. He is my best friend and I help him out and spend time with him and talk to him about most everything. I remind him to do his homework and read his Bible. He knows that I am always there for him.

Similarly, I affect other people in my life, such as my peers. At the start of 2012, I transferred from a large, public school to a small, private, Christian school. It was the best decision I have ever made. I make sure my friends know that I am there for them. I am with my friends through the fun times and hard times. It gives me joy to help the people around me. I am known for my happy and cheerful attitude, and I try really hard to keep it that way, because it

positively affects the people I come in contact with. Sometimes it's easy for my friends and I to get distracted by the business of our lives. We forget to be grateful about going to a school, let alone a Christian school. Simply my kindness and happiness can help people remember to be grateful and happy about the day God has given them. I do not want to just make it through the day, but I strive to live each day to the fullest. For example, I try to spend more time talking to my friends than messaging them on my phone. I also try to make people around me laugh. This attitude encourages my friends (and after only a year I have grown closer to more friends than I would have thought). When people come to me about their problems, I try hard to give them wisdom instead of knowledge, therefore leading them in the right direction. I believe I have impacted my friends and my classmates.

As an illustration, I am the president of Cincinnati Christian's National Junior Honor Society. I have the opportunity to be a leader and to participate in great service projects. I want to give to people in need because the Bible says, "If you have a lot, give a lot". One of the service projects we did was put together bags of dried food that were shipped to Africa for about 15,000 meals for hungry kids. I definitely made an impact on those hungry children. Also, My family and I sponsor an orphan girl in Guatemala. We send money to her each month. I try to glorify God in everything that I do. I am often participating in service projects and affecting the lives of people in need.

In conclusion, each day I am gradually changing people's lives. I plan to go on many mission trips and help people in poorer countries. I think that helping

the hungry (for instance) is a great way to glorify God. But, just as importantly, I also believe I can affect the area around me before I go to other countries. That could be as simple as smiling to a stranger. I can make a difference in people's lives one day at a time. I do not have to go around forcing my spiritual beliefs on others. I believe I can make a difference by simple, caring acts, spreading God's love to everyone I meet. And *that* is the absolute best affect I can have on people!