



Amanda Hoogkamp

ID: 04760 Country: [Bolivia](#) Region: South America

Biography

I grew up in a Christian home, believed in Christ at a young age, and trusted Him completely with my life at the age of 14. When I was in middle school, I was involved in youth group, but I was a shy girl and didn't socialize much. However, that began to change during my first missions trip. God took a shy, easily homesick girl and turned me into someone who fears Him and wants to serve Him no matter where that takes me. So began my call to missions.

During the following years, my heart and passion for other cultures and people increased. After a missions trip to England in 2005, I felt God call me to missions full time. In 2006 I traveled to Belize, and God spoke to me about the people of Latin America. My heart and mind were set, but God still had work to do in me.

What followed were six years of undergraduate and graduate studies. As most students will attest, college life is hard. It is a time when your beliefs come into question, and they either stand or fall. My college years defined my missions calling. My faith was tested in several ways, but, thankfully, I had a college group that allowed me to question and kept me focused on God. Without this group, my life would have taken a different path.

After college, I saw a lack of church groups for college students. This is where God has put a fire in my heart. I want to be there for students who are trying to decide if God can still be trusted with their hearts. El Alfarero University Student Center in [Bolivia](#) offers many services and is a place of security for college students. Students who come to El Alfarero battle the same things as those in the United States—rape, unwanted pregnancies, drug abuse, etc. They are looking for answers and hope, and El Alfarero gives that.