

An Investment of Love

Ms. Krupa Nithya J.'s Success Story

There is one memory that I never fail to recall. My first day as a student, stepping into the Lady Doak College campus, filled with uncertainties. Today, at the age of twenty-five, I am the youngest faculty member in the Aided Department of the PG and Research Centre of English. It's amazing how life comes full circle.

I come from a family where opportunities did not come easily. My father, who was the sole breadwinner of my family, was a government school teacher in Kerala, who had to care for my grandfather with glaucoma. Every educational opportunity carried value but there was a time when I would not have been able to complete my college studies, had I not received a scholarship in my hour of need. The wonder is never lost on me. The very classrooms where I once sat as a student – sometimes exhausted but eager to learn, are now the spaces where I teach, mentor, and inspire. Looking back, I do not see this journey as a coincidence, but as a testimony of God's faithfulness and the transformative power of Lady Doak College.

Lady Doak College was not only the place where I got the opportunity to excel academically, obtaining the Best Outgoing Student in B.A. and M.A, and the First Rank in M.A. Degree Examination, Best Project in English, Best Candidate in Linguistics in both U.G. and P.G. in addition to other academic honours, it was also the place where I discovered my gifts. I will never forget how my choir teacher recognised my potential and encouraged me to take up solo singing, which has allowed me to excel at several competitions and arenas since. I also learned that I had the potential to be a leader, musician, composer, lyricist, researcher, and communicator. As a student, I have served in numerous leadership positions, including the Board of Studies, Academic Council, College Choir, Centre for Music, Youth Red Cross, and at the postgraduate hostel. It never ceases to amaze me how far I've come after joining Lady Doak.

When I returned to the college as an Assistant Professor, I wished that I could serve the institution, at least in some small measure. This is the place that has nurtured me and served as a beacon of hope and light in my life, bestowing me with the many gifts needed to progress personally and professionally. Beyond teaching, I wished to serve my alma mater with gratitude, in whatever way I could. I have tried to accomplish this by guiding the College Choir and the Centre for Music, and the resident students at Lady Doak College. The college has also recognised me for my other gifts. A self-taught calligrapher who discovered the art during the COVID-19 lockdown, I have handwritten and painted Bible verse boards displayed across the college hostels. Professionally, the college has upskilled me to present research papers, serve as a resource person in schools and colleges, and inspired me to invest in students not only academically but spiritually.

The campus where I once watched my seniors worship with conviction is now the place where I stand to share God's Word, and where I look forward to leading Bible study sessions for resident students. My time at Lady Doak College has taught me that every opportunity to teach, mentor, create, or encourage is an act of thanksgiving to God.

I have tasted, firsthand, the fruits of a missionary educational institution. I am a part of the Lady Doak legacy. I am sure that more young women like me will be given the same opportunity that the college once gave me. There are students with talent and ambition who may never get the chance to pursue their dreams because of financial limitations. I know what it means for that barrier to be removed – I have witnessed its transformative potential. Education can change not only the life of one student, but also the lives of her family and the generations that follow.

I believe that this is what makes my story a little larger than my own achievements. The scholarship helped me complete my studies. The college gave me opportunities, teachers encouraged me to make use of my skills, and eventually I have started giving back to that same community.

And so, the investment continues. An investment of love.