YOU SEE ME

Now that cafés are open, friends can meet for coffee and enjoy the warm, fresh air. As my husband, Mark, and I recently sat with a local pastor friend, Bob*, a familiar scene unfolded. A small man, his head down, approached a table at the end of the café. The person sitting there was busy with his phone and ignored the man, who mumbled something before gingerly placing a small card on the table. After no response from the table’s occupant, the man retrieved the card and came to our table.

As I suspected, he was deaf and offering a small trinket in exchange for whatever coins we could spare—nothing of value, really, but more dignified than outright begging. He mumbled something and hesitantly offered a card to each of us. As Mark reached for his coins, he asked the man, mouthing the words slowly, “What’s your name?”

“D-Dan*,” he stuttered, surprised by the question. “My name’s Mark. Nice to meet you, Dan,” tears welled up in Dan’s eyes.

Pastor Bob offered to give Dan a Bible, which he gladly accepted. They exchanged phone numbers in order to connect the next day.

As Dan went on his way, he didn’t stop at any more tables. He found a place away from the crowds where he wept openly. This simple act of kindness gave us a powerful reminder of how desperate people are for God’s love and the dignity we can extend to them in His name.

Please pray that Bob will be able to continue to share the hope of Jesus with Dan.

*Name changed

by Kathy, an Alliance international worker serving in Europe/Middle East

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OLD FRIENDSHIP BRINGS NEW LIFE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Because of COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, an Alliance church in Kendall, Florida, began having worship services on Facebook Live. Through the site, Pastor Willy Hurtado got reacquainted with an old friend of his, Gonzalo, from Bolivia. The two hadn’t heard from each other for more than 20 years.

“Gonzalo was not a Christian and was surprised to learn I was a pastor,” Willy says. “I invited him to our online service, and he attended.” Later that day the two chatted on WhatsApp, and Gonzalo said he surrendered his life to Jesus during the service. “I invited him to continue ‘attending’ online,” says Willy. “To my surprise, the following week he invited 15 people to his house to watch the service.” Unfortunately, they couldn’t see it live because of internet trouble. But that didn’t stop Gonzalo. Later that day, he played a recording of the service. This time, 17 of his friends and relatives came to his home to watch it—all received Jesus during the service.

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“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants” (Psalm 89:14).

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:3–4).

“This is what [the Lord] requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).


“This is what the Lord says: Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent!” (Jeremiah 22:3).

adapted from a testimony by Pastor Willy Hurtado and translated by Alliance worker John Sappia

RESOURCES FOR PROMOTING RACIAL JUSTICE

With recent events that have divided our nation, many Christians are praying about the issues of racism and seeking to become agents of reconciliation in their communities and beyond. To assist in this effort, the following Scripture passages have been recommended by Alliance leaders and those who recently participated in a panel discussion on Race, Justice, and the Church’s Response, led by U.S. Alliance President John Stumbo and Corporate Vice President Kelvin Walker.

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For additional resources, go to bit.ly/resources-for-better-understanding-racism

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Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel.
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