

CALL TO Prayer

SEPTEMBER 2017

Terror in Barcelona

BY AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER

I had just finished swimming with my kids when my wife rushed over to tell me there had been a terror attack in Barcelona, where we serve as Alliance international workers among North African immigrants. As I reached for my phone, the messages confirmed that something horrible had happened. We checked with the team there, and we thank God that everyone is safe.



Our family could have been there if our departure to Barcelona had not been delayed. We were scheduled to arrive on July 19 but changed our flights due to visa and housing complications.

For the last several weeks, I have enjoyed living with my in-laws in a quiet house on a lake in the States. It's so safe here that you can leave the door unlocked and nothing will happen. The events in Barcelona have brought to my mind the sharp contrast of our situation here and the one we are heading into. Ten days out from heading back, questions rushed to my mind. *Are you sure you want to take your family to a place like that? That's not safe! Why don't you stay here? Here is safe.*

Then I remembered that all year long as I have been visiting churches, the message I have been sharing was to not be afraid, to not allow hatred to control us, to be willing to go wherever God calls us.

Suddenly, I realized that this message is for me. God is once again asking me not to fear and to trust in Him. The safest place is not underground, hiding in a shelter, or on a remote island far away from everyone. The safest place for believers is near Him, walking in obedience, going wherever He leads us. And the most dangerous place is the place of disobedience.

Last month's attack is a reminder that lost people need Jesus. North Africans need Jesus. Spaniards need Jesus. He is the only hope they have!

Pray that God will turn these evil events into good—that He will open the eyes of our North African and Spanish friends to realize their need for a Savior, the only one who can bring peace, healing, and reconciliation. Pray also for us and that we will walk in obedience.

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Jesus Took Care of It

BY CHRIS O'DELL, SERVING IN TAIWAN WITH ENVISION

As we finished a Sunday service, Caleb, a ministry partner, said to me, "Can you let everyone know that if they have pain in their bodies, Jesus wants to take care of it? Tell them they can come up and we'll pray for them after the service."

Earlier that evening, we had focused on the themes of forgiveness and healing from Isaiah 53– "By His wounds we are healed."

After the benediction, I invited those who wanted prayer for healing to come forward, saying, "Jesus wants to take care of your pain."

Several people stayed. We prayed for them one at a time, inviting the Holy Spirit to release God's healing power. Following Jesus' example, we commanded pain to leave and spoke blessings over each person.

Four excited women testified that the pain in their bodies was gone. They said they were reminded of their identity as God's children, who are fully qualified to receive His healing in their lives.

Two weeks later, one of the women thanked me again. The long-time, chronic pain has not returned. Praise God for His redemptive work that extends to hearts, minds, and bodies. Pray for others in need to experience His divine touch.

House Lights

BY AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER COUPLE SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The community of a small Filipino church in the Middle East is made up mostly of women who have immigrated here to work as house maids, with the goal of sending money back home to pay for their children's tuition, save for a house, or help their families through a financial crisis.

The situation of these women can be dismal. Some are given only one day a month off, as they live in their employers' homes and must work whenever they are asked. Emotional, physical, and even sexual abuse can occur.

However, on the only day of the month they have off, these ladies come to church and joyfully worship with each other. They sing and dance. They join together in their love for the Lord. Even in these difficult circumstances, this fellowship of women chooses to not only see themselves as "house help" but also as "house lights" who show and tell the truth.

If these ladies are able to proclaim the gospel with so much joy, then surely we can do the same. Be a light in the darkness around you this month, and pray that we will reveal the good news to this spiritually dark land.

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