



DISILLUSIONMENT OPENS DOORS TO THE GOSPEL

BY AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER
SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Disillusionment with the prevailing religious system in our host country seems to be spreading. My wife and I have served here for 15 years, but in the last few years we've seen more multiplication of disciples than ever before.

One example is Mike*, my close friend from the majority religious group who is now a believer. I recently visited him while his mother was in the hospital before she passed away. As we drank coffee together in the waiting room, Mike excitedly told me that God had brought something good out of the sad news of his mother's rapidly declining health.

Because of their many hours in the hospital together, Mike had numerous opportunities to talk to his relatives about his faith in Christ. He was surprised by the new openness he was seeing in them after enduring years of emotional and physical abuse at their hands because of his faith.

Mike's father, who had been especially hostile toward him, showed remarkable receptiveness, saying, "I

still don't want you to advertise to everyone what you believe, but my own beliefs about God are growing. I'm not ready to be just like you, but my view of God is changing, and my life has also changed."

After Mike's mother died, the family had a reading for her soul from their holy book. This is a traditional practice of the majority religion to entreat God for the forgiveness of the deceased one's sins so he or she may enter heaven.

As a follower of Christ, Mike did not feel he could participate in this and was concerned that he would be confronted by his family for refusing. But he was encouraged that 15 of his relatives also opted out, enduring scornful stares yet finding solidarity in resisting the ritual together.

One of our dreams is that a large group of Mike's people will come to faith in Christ so more will feel free to follow Him without fear of persecution. Please pray that God will bring a mighty harvest and that the disillusioned will find hope in Christ.

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Prayer Walks Lead to Spiritual Awakening in Unreached Communities

BY AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER
SERVING IN BOSNIA

In 2018, our team of international workers and local believers went on prayer walks through several communities where there is no known gospel witness. We asked God to open doors for the good news, to free those enslaved to addictions and cycles of poverty, and to raise up new workers to join us in reaching this country for Christ.

Just a few months later, we are already seeing Him move. Sonya* lives in a small town on the northern border where we prayed. Last November, she gave her heart to Christ! Pray that Sonya will grow deep roots in Him as she gathers with a home group in her village and that her husband will also come to know Jesus.

A new evangelistic website allows those speaking the local language to learn more about Jesus, request literature or a Bible, and correspond with a believer. Thirty-three people, mostly unchurched, have engaged with this resource. One of them, Elle*, comes from a community where we did a prayer walk last year. She is the first from her town to be open to hearing more about Jesus and requested a personal visit from a local pastor's wife. Please pray that Elle remains open to hearing God's Word.

*Names changed

Trusting God's Promises Because of His Character

ADAPTED FROM A. W. TOZER'S DAILY
DEVOTIONALS

Why do I insist that all Christians should search the Scriptures and learn as much as they can about this God who is dealing with them? It is because their faith will spring up naturally and joyfully only as they find that our God is trustworthy and fully able to perform every promise He has made.

This word concerning God's total faithfulness is a vibrant, positive message in Paul's letter to the Hebrews. Those to whom it is primarily written were being persecuted. They were suffering. The enemy of their souls was busy planting doubts about God's plans for them and His promises to them. Probably Satan was sowing doubts about the very character of the God who had revealed Himself in a new covenant of grace, sealed in the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Let me share a conclusion I have come to in my study of the Scriptures. I have come to believe that all the promises of God have been made to assure us weak and changeable humans of God's never-ending good will and concern. What God is today He will be tomorrow. And all that God does will always be in accord with all that God is!

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