



LATTER RAINS FOR A SPIRITUAL DESERT

BY AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER
SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“What am I going to do without Alpha*?” Max** asked me. He was sad that our year of spiritual dialogue had ended.

Max came from a religious family, and his father was an exorcist from the majority religion. Several years ago, Max became disillusioned with this belief system because of the ugliness he saw and wondered if there was another way. His searching led him to study many religions, particularly Christianity.

Max is one of the primary reasons we began to offer Alpha. He had deep interest beyond what we could offer in our interfaith dialogue group and faithfully attended every session—risking a promotion so he could come to the Wednesday night class, which was scheduled during his work hours. My wife and I were encouraged by his spiritual hunger.

In our 15 years here, we have seen things slowly open up. I recently returned to our host country after a trip and could not believe how green it was—it’s usually a desert.

It seemed like God was reminding me of these metaphors in Scripture: “Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 35:6) and “. . . be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth . . . until it receives the early and latter rain” (James 5:7, NKJV).

Have the latter rains arrived here? We’re not sure yet, but the signs are positive. Statistics show that people in our country would have to knock on 500 doors to find someone who could tell them about Christianity. Yet we continue to encounter people like Max who is spiritually hungry. He is so close, but taking the final step to accept Christ is perhaps the biggest decision he will ever make.

Will you pray 2 Corinthians 6:2 with us—that today will be the day of salvation for Max and so many others who are seeking?

*Alpha is a program that facilitates dialogue about important life questions and Christianity between people of different faiths. This particular group focused on Alpha and another program tailored to those who practice the Middle East’s majority religion.

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Thank You for Praying!

BY SARAH NEIGENFIND, AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER SERVING IN THAILAND

Some readers may have seen our prayer request about six months ago for Pat. He's a Thai graduate student studying philosophy with my husband, Keith. For the past six months, he and Keith met sporadically, discussing Pat's atheism and other philosophical views—as well as Jesus and the hope believers have in Him.

Eventually Pat started showing up at our church plant near the university campus—not just once, but to almost every service since Easter. Keith asked him each week if he was ready to follow Jesus. Pat would reply, “I think soon.” Finally, Keith asked again; this time Pat said, “Next week.” Concerned he might never return after making such a bold statement, we were delighted to see Pat the following week. When Keith asked him if he was ready to commit to Christ, he said, “Absolutely.” It's pretty wild to think that six months ago we asked the Alliance family to pray for this young man with whom we had connected—and now he is part of God's family. We all get to rejoice together. Thanks to all who prayed! Continue to pray for Pat's ongoing discipleship.



Kong (center) praying for a new believer

Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel. To receive *The Alliance Call to Prayer* and weekly Alliance Prayer Requests via email, subscribe at www.cmalliance.org/pray. Alliance ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and CAMA.

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Flat Tire . . . or God's Plan?

BY SOEUTH AND SYNA LAO, ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SERVING IN CAMBODIA

Recently, several Khmer Evangelical Church* families attended a leadership seminar. Because of the distant location, three of them, including Kong's family, spent a night at our place before the trip. They later shared the following story.

While the group was heading home, Kong's motorbike had a flat in an isolated place. For security reasons, the traveling companions—six adults and four small kids—waited together as a local mechanic fixed his bike. It was late in the evening, and the children were tired and hungry. Seeing the restless kids, a kind woman gave the little ones some dinner; she then asked who this group of strangers was. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Kong told her how thankful he was that Jesus had allowed him to visit her town for the first time.

“Who is Jesus?” the woman asked. Kong took the opportunity to share the gospel with her. As a result, she and five other family members invited Him into their lives. “It was God's plan all along to save this family by allowing me to have a flat tire,” Kong says. Pray for this family to connect with a church and be discipled.

*The Alliance in Cambodia

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