Our friend Tukta arrived at our house on a rainy night to see if I was home. “My friend is distraught,” she told my husband, Ed, when he opened the door. “She needs the Lord!” Tukta asked if she could bring her friend over to talk to me. Though only a casual attendee of our church, Tukta loves to point people to Jesus and brings hurting people to worship services.

Ed agreed. My first thoughts were somewhat selfish. We were in the middle of a Skype call with our daughter. This was our day off—and we hadn’t eaten dinner yet. But I quickly put those thoughts aside and prepared for the visit. I sensed this was a divine “interruption.”

Tukta returned a few minutes later with Kookkai, who was in her 50s. She told Kookkai, “You need Jesus to help you. Sue can tell you how.”

As I listened to Kookkai’s story, I sensed her longing for a way out—for hope. I began to tell her about Jesus, and she seemed receptive. When I shared God’s plan for salvation, she said she had just recently prayed on her own to ask Jesus to be her Savior after two friends witnessed to her on social media through Bible verses and Christian videos.

“Is this what you are telling me to do?” she asked. When I said yes, she asked, “Can God do a miracle in my life too?” I told her the miracle already began the moment she asked Jesus into her life. Kookkai had never been to church, did not have a Bible, and didn’t know much about her new faith. I shared some verses to encourage her, gave her some Christian literature, and prayed for her. Then I drove her home.

A few days later I began a home discipleship study with Kookkai. She was a different person—calm and hopeful. I gave her a Bible, and we began our lesson with the assurance of salvation. The following Sunday, she and her teenage daughter attended church, and they seemed excited to be there. Pray that Kookkai will continue growing in the Lord and find her peace in Him alone. Pray that her daughter will also come to faith in Jesus.

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A Bag of Popcorn
BY ESTHER, SERVING WITH THE ALLIANCE IN WEST AFRICA

I randomly grabbed a few bags of popcorn to bring along on recent ministry trip. In the village, we sat in a circle, talking with a young deaf girl's family. After I distributed the popcorn, a young man came up, his eyes fixed on our new team member, Mike, who is deaf and was signing. (Mike and his wife were commissioned as Alliance international workers this summer.)

Mike signed the young man’s name, Jon*. When we asked where he lived, Jon led us to his home to meet his father. But we weren’t prepared for the fetishes and potions surrounding this man—the sense of darkness and despair was tangible. We introduced ourselves and asked the father if Jon could come to our city to learn communication skills. The father agreed; he also expressed a desire to trust in Jesus when we shared the gospel.

This was a day God ordained—part of the good works He created for us to do (see Ephesians 2:10)—and it started with some popcorn. Pray for this man and his new faith; also, intercede for our ministry among the deaf community in this country.

*Name changed

The Lord for the Body
ADAPTED FROM THE WRITINGS OF ALLIANCE FOUNDER A. B. SIMPSON

It is very reasonable that God should expect us to trust Him for our bodies as well as our souls. If our faith is not practical enough to bring us temporal relief, how can we be schooled to depend upon God for anything that involves serious risk?

It is all very well to talk about trusting God for the distant and future prospect of salvation after death. There is scarcely a sinner in a Christian land who does not trust to be saved some day, but there is no grasp in faith like this. It is only when we come face to face with positive issues and overwhelming forces that we can prove the reality of divine power in a supernatural life.

As an education to our spirits as well as a gracious provision for our temporal bodies, God has always trained His people to recognize Him as the supplier of all their needs, and to look to Him as the Physician of their bodies and the Father of their spirits. “I am the Lord that healeth thee” (Exodus 15:26, KJV).

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