

CALL TO Prayer

MAY 2018

Finding the Lost Lamb

BY MELANIE CHINCHILLA, AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER SERVING IN GERMANY

For the last few months, my husband and I have asked the Alliance family to join us in praying that we will see at least one person start a new relationship with Jesus this year. We are hoping for more than one, of course, but there is also great value in “leaving the ninety-nine to go after the one” (See Matthew 18:12-14).

At our small group this spring, Marie*, a believer in our church, brought her friend Ella for the first time. Ella was born in a predominantly Catholic country in South America, but in practice, she was an atheist.

Ella knew it was a Bible study and came ready to learn. I taught the group how to have devotions at home, using Ephesians 6:10-20. We talked about how God speaks to us through His Word and Spirit.

It was the first time Ella had read the Bible for herself. As we discussed what stood out to us, Ella said she was relieved that our battle is a spiritual one. Her inner turmoil finally made sense to her, and she didn't feel like she was going crazy anymore.

After we finished, Marie asked Ella, “Are you ready to pray the prayer of faith? We will pray with you.”

“No, not right now,” Ella said. “But I will probably be ready to pray next week.”

Ella came again the following week. We studied Psalm 34. As we read verse five, *Radiant will be the faces of those who cling to the Lord, and their faces will not be downturned with shame* (translated from the Spanish version), the Holy Spirit led me to discuss what it means to cling to Him.

We ended up in the gospels as I explained to her what it means to hold fast to the Lord. I told her that Jesus is the only way to the Father and she could be born again in Him if she trusted Christ for her salvation.

Ella said she wanted to receive the promise of Psalm 34:5 and understood that Jesus had paid the price for her sin. We prayed with her to receive forgiveness and eternal life.

Pray that Ella will continue to grow in her faith. Pray also that as we disciple her, she will receive freedom from the trauma of her past.

**Names changed*



Melanie Chinchilla with her discipleship group (photo courtesy of the author)

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Healing through the Prayers of the Faithful

BY PAT HARRIS, AN ALLIANCE WORKER
SERVING IN THAILAND WITH ENVISION

One night I awoke convulsing uncontrollably and was admitted to the ER. An ultrasound and X-rays revealed three kidney stones too large to pass. My husband, Rick, and I have 70 prayer supporters on our e-mail list. Rick contacted them, and they prayed for me throughout this crisis.

Once I was stable, doctors suggested a procedure to break up the stones, but it was too expensive after already spending three days in the hospital. I opted to take a recommended medication, get a second opinion, and trust the Lord for healing. Following my discharge, I visited Dr. Nick Walters, my primary care physician, a devout Jesus follower. He reviewed my hospital reports and examined the three large stones. Then he suggested I continue the medicine for several weeks and see where the stones position themselves.

After two weeks, I had another ultrasound. I walked into Dr. Walters' office, and he said immediately, "Thank your prayer warriors because you have been healed." No stones appeared in the ultrasound, and the doctor said they had been too large to pass without severe pain.

God's faithful prayer warriors played a huge part in this healing. Prayer is my weapon of choice, and the enemy

was defeated. I give our great Healer all the praise!

Praying against Evil

Adapted from *The Life of Prayer* by A. B. Simpson, Christian Publications, Inc., 1967

"Deliver us from evil." This has frequently been translated "from the evil one," but . . . it [is] most natural to translate it . . . as evil in all forms rather than the author of evil. This is more satisfactory to the Christian heart.

There are many forms of evil which do not come from the evil one. . . . There are physical evils covered by this petition as well as special temptations. It is a petition, therefore, against sin, sickness, and sorrow in every form in which they could be evils. It is a prayer for our complete deliverance from all the effects of the Fall, in spirit, soul, and body.

It is a prayer which echoes the fourfold gospel and the fullness of Jesus in the highest and widest measure. It teaches us that we may expect victory over the power of sin, support against the attacks of sickness, triumph over all sorrow, and a life in which all things shall be only good and work together for good according to God's high purpose. Surely the prayer of the Holy Ghost for such a blessing is the best pledge of the answer! Let us not be afraid to claim it in all its fullness.

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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 e-mail, subscribe at www.cmalliance.org/pray. Alliance Ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and the CAMA Advance Fund.



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