

# CALL TO PRAYER

DECEMBER 2023



## A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Recently, we were encouraged by a testimony from two of our ministry colleagues, Firmin and Veronique, a couple from the national church who serve at our orality center. They were trained to partner with international workers to plant churches through orality, an interactive storytelling technique that connects the Bible with many oral cultures, where people learn best through story. This outreach involves traveling to remote villages, and Firmin has been recovering from a motorcycle accident to one location that left him on crutches.

One evening, two military men knocked on the door of the center. The leader of the two was a sergeant in the army. He asked to see the pastor. Veronique was alone with the children. Understandably unnerved, she explained that Firmin wasn't there but offered to answer any questions.

The sergeant said, "Since you arrived in our village, there has been light where once it was dark. I've watched you from our military camp, and God has shown me that you are genuine. There is a light that shines from this place. I wondered what I could bring as a gift, but all I have

are these two cakes of soap. I brought them so the pastor can wash his clothes."

Veronique received the soap and told him, "The light that shines from here is not us. It is Jesus. You can have the same light in you." She continued to share with him from God's Word, and he listened with interest. The sergeant said that his wife attends church, but he never saw the point. Veronique invited him to return the next day for the service, and he did. It was a wonderful time with several testimonies of changed lives.

Recently, Firmin and Veronique had felt discouraged, wondering why it was so hard to see growth in their ministry, especially with hindrances such as motorcycle accidents. The sergeant's visit gave them hope that they are having an impact, even if they can't see it yet. The visit also encouraged us because we've had a burden to pray for breakthrough among those in the military camp. This experience affirmed that God is leading us in those prayers. Pray that these soldiers, who move frequently to other camps, will be drawn to Christ.

| by Jay and Beverly, Alliance international workers serving with aXcess in Congo

TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS, PLEASE VISIT [CMALLIANCE.ORG/PRAY](http://CMALLIANCE.ORG/PRAY).

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## RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH PRAYER

Once again, the Alliance family will launch the new year with 40 Days of Prayer. We'll begin on Monday, January 1, and conclude on Friday, February 9, with a livestream family celebration of what God continues to do in our midst as we remain faithful in seeking Him. As we unite with one another as a fully engaged, Christ-centered, Acts 1:8 family, our theme will be **now**. pray.

In addition to the resources that we've provided to churches, we'll be hosting weekly virtual prayer gatherings Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. ET led by our local Alliance churches in Columbus, Ohio. And we'll conclude on the high note of a livestream for the Alliance family on the evening of Friday, February 9.

We'd love to have you participate with us! Visit [40days.cmalliance.org](http://40days.cmalliance.org) to receive a set of daily devotionals and prayer points authored by Alliance leaders and family members. There is no better way to begin the year than being on our knees together seeking the face of God. Visit [40days.cmalliance.org](http://40days.cmalliance.org) to register.



## NO MORE BLACK MAGIC—FORMER WITCH ENDURES PERSECUTION TO FOLLOW CHRIST

In a remarkable transformation, Mariana,\* a feared witch from an indigenous people group, has left behind her dark magic and embraced Jesus as Savior. Despite her infamy as a witch, Mariana lived in abject poverty, without basic amenities like running water or a bathroom. Although her circumstances haven't changed, her newfound faith remains unshaken, and her new family in Christ has come to her aid.

Because she has changed so dramatically, Mariana's unbelieving neighbors are reacting with anger and resentment toward her; in one instance, she narrowly escaped a horrifying attempt to take her life. Mariana's unwavering testimony of the life-changing power of Jesus will undoubtedly open doors for the gospel in this community so desperately in need of hope and salvation.

In August, a short-term team from Providence Church in Omaha, Nebraska, joined us to evangelize the area. In addition to visiting the home of Mariana and others, the team helped with the first public evangelistic outreach there with a booth at the weekly street market, painting children's faces and making bracelets while explaining the gospel. Three people said yes to Jesus that week! Pray that God will add to their number daily.

by Bob and Cheryl, Alliance international workers serving with aXcess in Mexico

\*Name changed

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