

# CALL TO PRAYER

SEPTEMBER 2024



## WATER FOR THIRSTY SOULS

As I write this, we are halfway through one of the hottest “hot” seasons on record in our West African host country. For three months, we typically see increased water cuts in our city. In surrounding villages, hand-dug wells often dry up during these times.

Hot season is hard on everyone, but especially women, because they are responsible for getting water for their families. During water cuts, urban women awake in the middle of the night to be in line at the neighborhood faucet when the water is restored. Village women might have to walk several miles to a drilled well to get water if the hand-dug well is dry.

In one village, the hand-dug well in the church courtyard had dried up. It not only serves the church but also the many unbelievers who come there desperate for water. They may not know it yet, but they are also desperate for a Savior. As we looked at the well, the pastor said, “If you are willing, you could help us with this.” He was speaking not just for himself and his family but for the hundreds of people in his village who were without water.

The Alliance has a long history of partnering with communities to provide access to clean water. Just as Jesus was moved with compassion by the suffering He encountered during His earthly ministry, we are moved with compassion by the suffering we encounter today. But it is not enough to feel compassion; we must also be willing to act—as Jesus did. Christ’s love compelled us to visit this pastor and his church family, to encourage them from God’s Word, and to provide them with a drilled well. “The village women start arriving at 3:00 a.m.,” the pastor reported, “and someone is pumping water all day!”

We are thankful for all who provide the resources that enable us to show compassion to those in need! Pray that we will intentionally lean in to help as we are able. Pray also that as unchurched villagers enter the church courtyard to draw water, they—like the Samaritan woman at the well—will encounter Jesus, the One who can provide them with Living Water.

| by Esther, an Alliance international worker  
serving with aXcess

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## “OUR CHAINS ARE BROKEN”

When 60-something Helen stepped into the Flow Church in Taiwan, she had an encounter with God that changed her family’s life forever. “I have been seeking my Heavenly Father for over 30 years, and I finally found Him,” she says. She and her husband, Afu, are raising their two grandchildren in their parents’ absence. Afu was amazed by the dramatic transformation in his wife and grandkids since they started attending church. When the couple expressed their desire to remove their idols from their home, we explained the gospel to them. They acknowledged that they understood the truth of salvation, and they accepted Jesus as their Savior.

A short-term team from San Jose (California) Christian Alliance Church was in Taiwan this June for an Encounter God camp. The pastoral and elder couples from the church went to Afu and Helen’s home to remove their idols and pray for cleansing and blessing. “I feel like my chains have been broken,” Afu said afterward. The couple says that it was the love of God that drew them to Christ. Afu and Helen were baptized in August. They have been sharing their testimony with the customers of their home-based hair salon, proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the only true God and encouraging them to go to church to encounter Him. Pray that many will embrace Him as Savior through Afu and Helen’s witness.

| by Jason and Andi, Alliance international workers serving with aXcess

## SURPRISED BY GOD

God is often working behind the scenes even when we can’t see it. He delights in surprising us, and the Holy Spirit can overcome any obstacle we observe in the natural. Sonia, the chaplain at Bongolo Hospital’s eye clinic in Gabon, is also the receptionist. In that role, she interacts daily with some difficult patients who may be frustrated or hurting. In one instance, two men from the majority religion had been notably rude. Sonia continued being patient and kind. To her great surprise, after one of her devotional messages, the two men raised their hands in response to an altar call.

Sonia asked why they had raised their hands. One of the men answered simply, “Because I recognize that Jesus is my Savior and personal Lord.” We never know what is going on in the hearts of those around us, but the world is watching. Even while people are displaying animosity toward us, God is working in their hearts where we can’t see it. Thanks so much for your prayers for Alliance ministries—they make it possible for us to serve here. We are so blessed by you and by our God who answers prayer!

| by Eric and Wendy, Alliance international workers serving with aXcess



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