WOMEN OF THE WORD

Most believers in the country where we serve are women, often outnumbering the men by ten to one. The overwhelming difficulties they face each day and the lack of other religions that provide sufficient answers to life’s questions help magnify to them their deep need for a Savior.

The major challenge in discipling women believers is illiteracy. Most have never had the opportunity to go to school. Though that trend is changing and younger girls are attending school, those from older generations remain illiterate.

Although many will agree that literacy brings benefits for health, finding work or managing a business project, and for gaining respect of those around you, our desire is that women be able to read the Bible. Women need to be able to read Scripture for themselves so that they can discern false teachers and learn more about Jesus (see 2 Peter 3:17–18).

Encouraging literacy remains a large part of our discipleship ministry. Rachel was one woman who joined a literacy class shortly after accepting Christ as her Savior. She caught on quickly and soon purchased a Bible and began to read it for herself. She now takes turns with other women in leading a Bible study. “I learn so much from reading my Bible. When the pastor asked me to prepare a lesson, I was so nervous. But each time I open my Bible, there is something for me to learn and share with others.”

Another advantage of literacy is that women can now read the Bible with their children. This is especially important if the woman is the only believer in her family. Christian women who are literate can play an important role in discipling their children and teaching them the importance of the Word of God.

Intercede for those who are involved in literacy work. Pray for Rachel and other Christian women who are teaching Bible studies, specifically that the Holy Spirit will guide them into all truth. Pray that these women will understand the truth of who Jesus Christ is and be able to stand against false prophets and teachings. Pray that believers everywhere will be people of the Bible who spend significant time in the Word of God.

by Esther, an Alliance worker serving in West Africa
HELP AND HOPE FOR YOUNG REFUGEES

Currently, thousands of migrant and unaccompanied refugee minors are pouring into Spain. While the government provides aid at Centers for Minors, these protections last only until they turn 18, when they are suddenly left without skills, resources, or housing.

In 2019, two Alliance international workers (IWs) began developing a holistic program to aid these young men who have aged out of the government programs. In early 2020, with the help of Alliance Missions and marketplace ministries, the IWs quickly received sufficient funding to launch the program. Despite the lockdowns and complications of COVID-19, the project has grown, providing housing, food, and training for six young men. Four have found jobs that will help them obtain residency, and all six are building relationships and finding healing. They are experiencing the love of Christ, and it is opening their hearts to the gospel!

In 2021, the program is thriving and ready to expand—many Centers for Minors in the region are requesting placement for boys who are about to come of age. Pray for the resources that will allow this work to advance and impact more young migrants and refugees.

Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel.

To receive the Call to Prayer and weekly prayer requests via email, subscribe at cmalliance.org/pray.

Alliance ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and CAMA.

IN THE WAKE OF A FIRE

On Sunday morning, January 9, a fire broke out in a 19-story apartment building in the Bronx, New York, killing 17 people due to smoke inhalation, 8 of them children. Many West Africans from several countries lived there. Some are friends and family members of several women who attend our ESL and citizenship classes.

As we were praying yesterday, we received word that one of the victims had just awoken from a coma. We thank God for this! A student in our ESL group called to tell us that her friend and the woman’s three children died in the fire. Another woman has a friend who is in temporary housing and very discouraged.

Please pray for those affected by this tragedy. Some are still hospitalized; all the residents are displaced, living in hotels and a school; and the whole community is shaken. We have been invited to attend the funerals, to be held at the residents’ local house of worship, so we can offer help. On Sunday, January 16, several of our ESL teachers visited some women in the school where they are temporarily housed. We are also working to connect with several West African families our students know who lived in the building to learn how to show God’s compassion for the brokenhearted in this difficult time. Thank you for praying with us.

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