

New Lives for Old

Pablo and Wilma Reyes were signing annulment documents when a friend invited them to an Alliance Marriage Encounter (ALMA). ALMA is well established in Latin America and has spread to Asia, Africa, and Europe. The weekend retreat provides valuable tools to help couples overcome crises. At the center of the ministry, prayer allows God to work miracles.

Wealthy by Chilean standards, the couple had no time for their children or for each other. They drifted apart, and Pablo became romantically involved with a coworker. When Wilma found out, she began an affair with an old boyfriend. Their problems escalated to include verbal and physical abuse. Pablo and Wilma finally separated, but they agreed to attend the retreat.

At first, hope for a reconciliation appeared dim. "Friday night, they had a horrible fight," said David Woerner, an Alliance missionary. Pablo wanted to leave, but he couldn't find the exit door for the retreat center. When he finally reached the parking lot, his car was blocked so he had to stay. By Saturday, both Pablo and Wilma accepted Jesus.

After ALMA, they attended

Sunday worship at Cordillera Alliance Church, sponsor of the retreat and an ALMA reunion. They faithfully attend a discipleship group. Woerner and his wife, Lou Ann, led the couple in a baptism course and subsequent baptism. Pablo and Wilma began preparing to minister as Marriage Encounter presenters.

During a routine test on his spine, doctors severed Pablo's spinal cord, and he suffered paralysis. "When Pablo began rehabilitation, he was the only believer in the group," said Woerner. "Two of his fellow rehab patients committed suicide, and two others divorced their spouses."

Today, Pablo and Wilma continue to minister in ALMA, and "the church has been helping them financially, because Pablo has not been able to work," said Woerner. Also, a church member has assisted Pablo in computer training analysis, for which he receives a stipend. "Pablo copes with his paralysis only because of His faith that the Lord is sovereign," Woerner said.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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Critics Receive Love

After showing the JESUS film at Christmas, three men who hosted the event received criticism from two religious leaders during messages at a local mosque. The men had invited "Dr. S," who oversees a medical clinic in northern Senegal and partners with Alliance missionary Doug Conkle, to show the movie. Dr. S was disciplined by an IFAP couple while studying in a North African country, and the Lord called him to work among his own people—the Fulani of Senegal.

Shortly after the public scolding, the daughter of one of the leaders became seriously ill, and Dr. S was consulted. Under his care and treatment, the child fully recovered. The family was grateful. "They brought Dr. S food," says Conkle. "Later a nephew asked the doctor for Christian literature." Pray that God will bind the spirit of fear and reveal himself to the Fulanis.

But perfect love drives out fear (1 John 4:18).

A Long Walk to Peace

When Kevin Oberg visited Pastor Samuel in the village of Ndorola, the Alliance missionary found the pastor with a visitor. An old Muslim had walked from the village of Siri to ask about what he had seen and heard

during an evangelism event in his village a few weeks prior.

During their time together, Pastor Samuel prayed with the man, who surrendered his life to Christ. "The man returned to Siri, excited to follow Jesus," says Oberg. "Pray that his faith will be strengthened and that his testimony will lead other villagers to the Lord."

"This is the way; walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21).

Hungry for God's Word

Alliance Radio in Hong Kong has a vision to bring the gospel to local and overseas Chinese people, and listeners like Jian are eager to share what they've learned. Wanting to make a difference in the lives of the workers in his electronics factory, Jian arranged after-work classes for them, ranging from tutoring and business-management to beauty classes. As a result, he has many opportunities to connect with these youths, counseling them as they discuss their problems.

Pray for Jian and other Alliance Radio listeners, who are hungry for the Word of God. "His words are my daily bread," wrote one listener. "If I don't hear His words for a day, I feel that something is amiss.

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17).

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Monthly Prayer Focus

Pray for spiritual revival throughout the Alliance.

To receive The Alliance Call to Prayer electronically, contact webmaster@cmalliance.org or access online at www.cmalliance.org/pray.



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