

#ineverystep

JULY 16



#ineverystep is a biannual magazine that tells the stories of those whose lives have been transformed by a revelation of Jesus.

His story in our story.
Our story in His story.
A true love story. He is indeed in every step.

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Yes, I have seen Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father,
still interceding...

In the lost who are found, in the blind who now see,
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in the broken hearts mended, in the unloved who are loved.
Yes, I have seen his glory and the coming of his kingdom...from above.



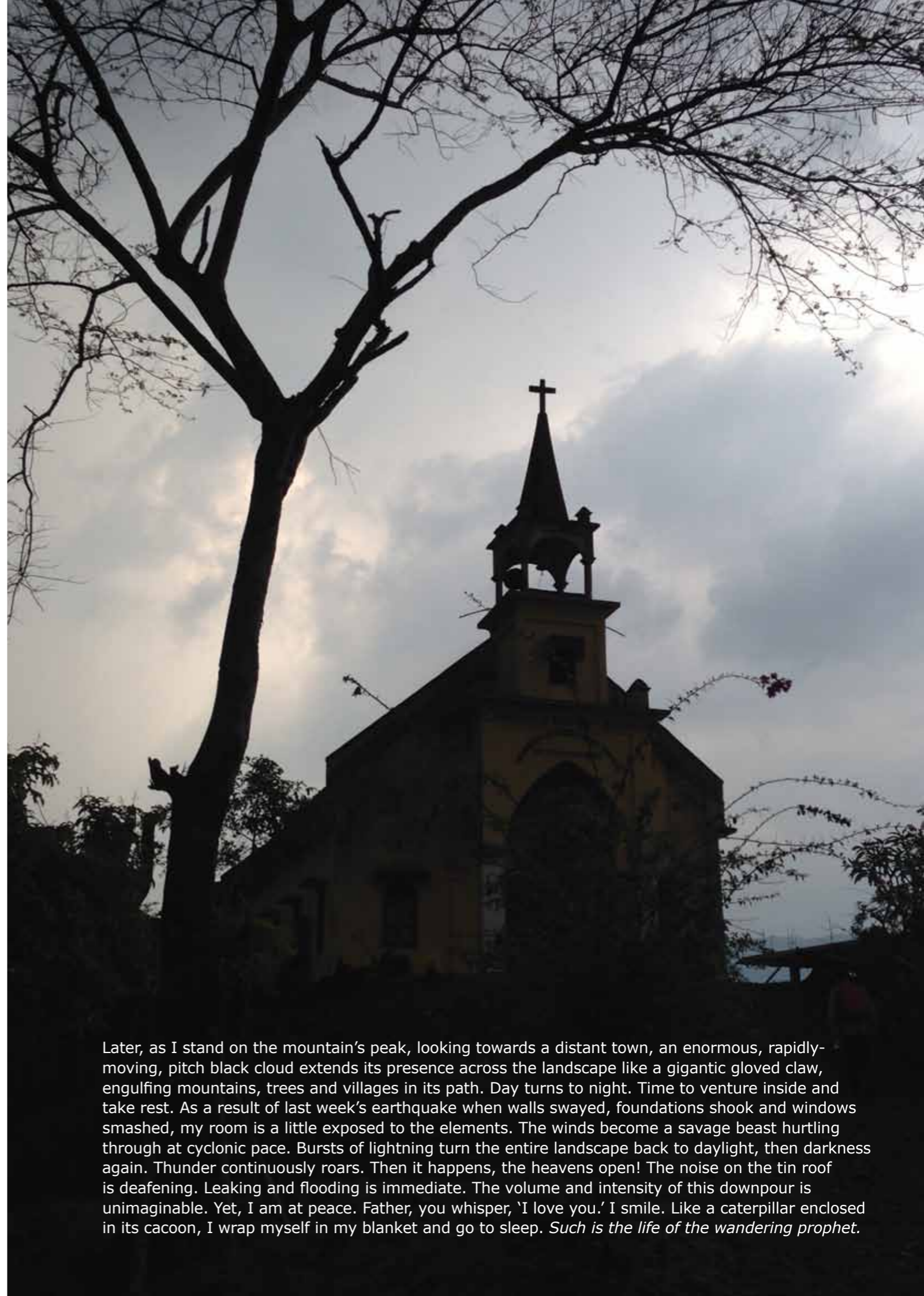
THE WANDERING PROPHET

The familiar sights and sounds; trolleys darting here and there adhering to their white line routes as if they are somehow magnetically compelled, luggage loaded on and off, red and yellow lights flashing, jet engines roaring, planes ascending and descending in rapid sequence...

Just seven weeks ago I was standing here filled with high expectations and a simple word, 'This is the beginning of stepping into the fullness. I will reveal my glory like never before. My words, my truth, my glory!'

Today is a new day, another village, another message, another moment in time for God to reveal his glory.

We have breakfast and head off through the jungle. I have fallen twice trying to find secure footing on the moss-covered clay inclines. One young man sees the need and finds a bamboo tree stem for me to use, giving me much needed stability in these slippery conditions. As we trek I sing songs of worship and, despite the physical challenges, feel a strong presence of God carrying me on. We come to a river crossing and with my trusty staff and a scarf over my head to shade off the sun, I feel like Joshua leading God's children into the Promised Land! As the sun breaks through the jungle canopy, the humidity rises, the incline becomes steeper, and after three hours my leg muscles have had enough. At this moment Father, you remind me that you have spoken strength and courage over me. I know when you speak it is so. Two leeches attack my guide and I cut my finger. It is time to stop, de-leech, crush some medicinal leaves into the minor wounds, stretch our muscles, eat bananas, drink water, give thanks and move on. After some time we arrive exhausted yet energised, relieved and expectant. Father, what is your special message for this village?



Later, as I stand on the mountain's peak, looking towards a distant town, an enormous, rapidly-moving, pitch black cloud extends its presence across the landscape like a gigantic gloved claw, engulfing mountains, trees and villages in its path. Day turns to night. Time to venture inside and take rest. As a result of last week's earthquake when walls swayed, foundations shook and windows smashed, my room is a little exposed to the elements. The winds become a savage beast hurtling through at cyclonic pace. Bursts of lightning turn the entire landscape back to daylight, then darkness again. Thunder continuously roars. Then it happens, the heavens open! The noise on the tin roof is deafening. Leaking and flooding is immediate. The volume and intensity of this downpour is unimaginable. Yet, I am at peace. Father, you whisper, 'I love you.' I smile. Like a caterpillar enclosed in its cocoon, I wrap myself in my blanket and go to sleep. *Such is the life of the wandering prophet.*

GAYANI'S STORY

All her life Gayani has tried to be good, to be loved and respected. She would make people laugh, then alone in her room she would cry. She didn't allow herself to laugh from the inside. She studied hard, achieved her masters and enjoys working for an NGO that empowers women. It was just one year ago when her life intersected with a woman from a distant land and was changed forever.

From their first meeting Gayani believed this woman was the one to help reach her people with the truth of God. Gayani is from a family who believe that the miracles in the Bible were for a time past. Yet, when sitting in a workshop given by this woman from a distant land, she hears the voice of God! That still small voice says, 'Surrender to me everything, surrender your trying to be good.' That was the beginning of an incredible adventure of empowerment and transformation.

Time passes. Gayani and the woman from a distant land are reunited once again, both expecting great things from God.

Even though Gayani has been to Bible College, by journeying with and translating for this woman from a distant land, she has learnt many new things, the deeper truths, and experienced the power of the living God. Throughout their time together, the woman from a distant land confirms her and encourages her to step out and operate in the gifts God has given her. The woman from a distant land lays hands on Gayani. She falls to her knees in tears. Empowered, Gayani prays for others and lays hands on them. She testifies, 'This is first time experience when praying for others I did not get lost in their pain, but instead experienced healing power and love of God touching them.'

After a full day of translating it is time for Gayani to take rest. Gayani shares a room with the delegates, her sisters, co-workers at the NGO.

Gayani's Story continued overleaf.

I am woken to an eerie stillness – the quiet after the storm. New sounds start to permeate the silence as the landscape responds to the previous night's onslaught. Frogs croak, rain drips, and drips, then a beautiful, gentle song travels to my ears on the morning breeze. I lay still and listen, receiving the blessing. The song, the words, so full of worship, this person has experienced the love and transforming power of the living God. I arise and discreetly peak through a gap in the thatched hut to see who is singing in such a tender way. Oh, my heart fills with great joy, my spirit rises, tears form...it is the young man who, after last night's sermon, surrendered his life and his will to the will of our Father.

I start to reflect upon moments from these last two weeks and how God revealed himself by reaching into the depths of each hungry heart...

A young girl named Gaidinlu, runs up to the stage and leaps into my arms saying, 'I want Jesus, I want to receive Jesus!' We pray together as tears roll down her cheeks, she receives Jesus, she receives his Spirit. I look into her eyes and see so much hurt, so much pain. She releases it all to Jesus. Her broken heart healed and filled with his love.

Then Maanbi who is trapped in unforgiveness towards others and cannot believe she herself is forgiven. She surrenders all to God, receives his forgiveness and healing, and is totally set free. Maanbi is instantly able to forgive others and empower them with God's message of forgiveness.

I remember an entire congregation lost in confusion, disunity and unbelief when challenged to receive the truth, the senior pastor testifies in front of his people, 'Before her coming I was concerned we would not be changed. When she speaks I sit and observe there is something different about this person. I can see something unique in her talking. My reasoning power tries to rationalise she must have studied at such a high level. Then I realise, it is the Holy Spirit guiding her, and the message is so powerful, clear and fresh. The teaching is simple that we can understand, yet so profound, based on full truth. It is reaching into all our hearts.'

Then there is Nacharen. His forefathers told him that God does exist, however he is a distant and judgemental God and that healings were for a time past. They say all we can do in this life is look forward to our future hope. Yet, Nacharen questions such a belief. I ask Nacharen, 'If Jesus was standing here before you in the flesh and asks you, what would you require of me, what would your answer be?' Nacharen replies, 'To receive healing and experience the living God.' I smile and explain we can pray for this with confidence, as God answers such prayers because that is his heart too! We pray. In an instant Nacharen's troubled mind is healed and he experiences the peace that only Jesus can give, flowing through his body. The next day in front of his entire family, Nacharen declares, 'God is a loving, giving, healing, living God.'

There are so many more whose lives have been transformed by the Spirit of the living God, reaching into the intimate depths of their searching hearts. *Such is the life of the wandering prophet.*

'My family is transformed. Broken relationships restored. My Grandma rejoices as she is now seeing the change in her people.' – Gayani.



Another day, another town, another moment. Today is a day of rest. I write in my diary, *A wonderful moment in your presence, now time in your Word.*

Current (Electricity) goes out so I open the curtains, just enough light. Father I am still in awe of you and all you have done so far. You whisper, 'This is only a small taste...only the beginning...so much more to come. Much, much, more. You will see the fulfilment of many things. I want to show you more of my glory, so you will say, "come and see the glory of the Lord." I want each to encounter me like never before.' Father, as you speak it is so.

After a full day of teaching it is time to refresh, take a bath, and rest in the arms of my Father. Yet I sense the need to search out some participants. The electricity goes off again. Candles are lit. Out of the darkness I see a couple of delegates in discussion.

They motion me to join them. One says, 'I was praying you would come talk to us.' We talk about surrendering to the will of our Father. My translator testifies of the change in her after she surrendered trying to be good. After

a long discussion Memi throws her hands in the air with dramatic gusto and, after a big sigh, proclaims, 'Ok, I surrender.' We pray. Instantly much pain is released and she receives perfect peace – something she has never experienced before. Over the next few days we witness a total change in Memi's demeanour. She testifies, 'I feel new,' and tells everyone excitedly, 'just surrender!' Another delegate receives total deliverance. Another receives revelation of who God is. Another could not surrender, but when touched by the power of Memi's testimony, they surrender, and now have peace of mind, giving thanks to God. Everyone testifies and gives thanks to God for revealing his glory.

I write in my diary, *Thank you Father for your presence and your unending joy while I'm travelling. You are amazing! I remember when you called me to this and you said, "Enjoy the journey." I replied, "Father, you will have to change me because this is not what I wanted to do and I hate travelling." Just listen to me now! You have changed me! Father I am in awe of you, who you are and all you have done, more of you.*

Such is the life of the wandering prophet.

'We thank God for giving us the opportunity to learn his words in deeper way. There are millions of people and yet he chose us and sent his child to teach us.'

Gayani's Story continued...

After some time they all start talking about the day's teaching. The electricity goes off so candles are lit. Gayani testifies that when she surrendered trying to be good to God and started living in a continual state of surrender to the will of our Father, spending time in His presence, her whole life has been transformed. The girls listen intently. More discussion. 'It is so hard to surrender,' one admits. The woman from a distant land enters the room and explains. When you know God as a loving Father, you can trust him with everything, including your own selfish desires. He will change your heart and desires to be the same as Jesus, giving you new ways to feel, think, see and live. That is part of the journey. After much discussion there's total surrender. Over the next few days Gayani continues to personally minister to her sisters. Time passes.


The woman from a distant land and Gayani arrive at her family home for overnight respite. Unknown to the woman from a distant land, Gayani's family believe miracles are for a time past. Gayani's Grandmother prays and prays for her people. There is no transformation. The woman from a distant land agrees to lead a house church meeting. Nacharen, Gayani's brother, holds a secret in his heart – to experience the living God. Maybe tonight will be his night?

People gather. After a few songs and a message from Revelation 1:4-6, each one reveals they secretly hold in their heart a desire to experience the living God. Then it happens. One by one each asks for prayer. One by one, by His Spirit, each one receives a personal touch from Jesus, the risen King. God answers every prayer that night.

In the early morning light each one says their farewells. Gayani and the woman from a distant land embrace. The woman from a distant land whispers, 'Your training time is over.' With tears in her eyes, Gayani says to the woman from a distant land, 'I feel this has been my time. I have learnt that to effectively disciple someone, it is not through preaching from a pulpit, but by journeying together.'







During the next four weeks the adventure escalates to a new level. Another state, another climate. The heat is extreme! It is even too hot in the shade. The fortunate surround the juice cart seeking a liquid respite. Vegetable carts bake in the sun with hessian sacks covering the produce as best as possible, but nothing lasts past a day. There's the smell of rubbish fermenting in the hot sun. Some shops are closed, but most are still open as people are forced to get on with life. The dust and pollution rises to toxic levels, narrow laneways become high traffic areas, bikes dart here and there with their horns declaring 'Out of the way, I'm coming through!'

It is the dawn of a new day and an additional challenge presents itself. The phone rings. I arise and move to a stronger signal area in the next room, but find myself staggering, unable to support my body weight. I fall onto a bed. What is this? I must have got up too quick. Time passes, and I still cannot raise my head off the pillow. Concern among the team and family starts to rise, as the next day I am no better. Surprisingly, I am at peace. I know as I journey in this life, in this world damaged by evil, through the highs and the lows, one truth remains: I am loved by my Father (God) and his love goes on and on.

I know God doesn't want me sick, so why is this happening? The answer is simple...I'm serving two different church partners who have two different schedules. One has services at night, the other during the day, resulting in irregular meals and difficulty sleeping. Heatwave conditions certainly don't help. Medical tests confirm there is no disease, no virus and no infection. However, my blood pressure has dropped severely. The next day I am no better, until...it happens! As I am lying flat on the bed, my eyes closed, worshipping God, his presence comes upon me. I have a vision of Jesus running his right hand over my body. An intense light, pure and golden, emanates all around him. I feel my body heating from the inside out. I receive all his energy. Placing his hands under my limp body, gently Jesus lifts me up and carries me over his shoulder. As Jesus walks, then glides, I'm standing in the palm of his right hand. We start to glide and Jesus wraps his arm around me. Together we soar once again, over the oceans, just as the first vision God gave me all those years ago when he called me. I open my eyes. I know and declare excitedly that I am healed, in Jesus mighty name! Thank you Jesus. Thank you Father.

VISION OF DESTINY

In worship, in the Spirit, I see the throne of God the Father and Jesus standing at his right hand. I climb up onto the throne and into the lap of my Father. Then Jesus raises me up and positions me to stand between him and our Father! Suddenly I'm standing on the mountain top, sword raised high. The throne of God and Jesus and all of heaven come down onto earth. The two spheres join. Father, you tell me, 'this is the destiny for my church! Victorious. Heaven on earth declaring my throne, my kingdom and heaven and earth become one.'

MISSIONARY MOMENTS

God: 'These people are very spiritual. I am sending you like the Apostle Paul into Athens, in the name of the Unkown God.'

THE SEARCH

My name is Amin. My life is this; I'm trapped in a circle of meaninglessness. The darkness closes in. I search and I search for the way to experience light. My body is paining. My knees. I stretch onto a cart. It is time to take rest. The day is hot, too hot. I can't sleep. The smells are worse this time of year. So I sit up. I watch.

Across the road many people coming. I get off the cart and, in pain, walk across. I ask what is happening? To my surprise I am given respect and invited inside, to have a free medical. I walk in. 'Line, line, line,' a voice yells. Another surprise, I am given a chair. I sit. I wait.

A young man helps me to go sit in front of the nurse. She checks blood, temperature and some things. An older man helps me to go sit in front of the doctor. I sit. I wait. I look. I see a woman from a distant land kneeling down in the dirt in front of a poor frail woman. Wait, I know that poor frail woman – she is from my village. I'm thinking. I ask, 'What is this woman from a distant land doing?' They inform me this woman is praying for the woman sitting in the chair. Yes, the woman from my village asked her to pray. It is finished.

I ask, 'Will this foreign woman pray for me?' To my surprise she gladly will pray for me. She explains who she is praying to and in whose power she prays. I do not know this God. He is unknown to me. She asks me, do I still want prayer? 'Please yes pray for me,' I reply. She asks what is my problem. I said knee pain. She then kneels down in front of me and places her hands on my knees! She closes her eyes. I watch and listen. She declares peace over my body. She opens her eyes and asks is the pain worse? I say no. Is pain the same? I say no. Is the pain less? I say no pain. She asks me what do I feel? I say excitedly I feel great light coming into my knees, into my body. I have been searching for the way to the light, to experience the light! This woman from a distant land explains Jesus has healed me and he is the true light, the only one who pushes back all the darkness. I ask where can I hear more about this light, this Jesus? I am given details of a place of worship. I am very happy. I go now. I walk with no pain to the other side. I sit. I watch.

Everyone packs up. One by one they leave. The woman from a distant land comes outside and sees me. She gives me respect. I joyfully give her respect. She leaves. That was the day I first experienced the light. His name is Jesus.



WISDOM QUOTE '[The] exercise of kingdom power requires closeness to the Father and dependence on the Spirit. That closeness to God is an absolute prerequisite for expressing kingdom power, calling for a centring around God instead of centring around people and strategies.'
Jayakumar Christian, God of the Empty-Handed.

JUST TIRED

Another day. So many things to do – being a mum looking after my small children; work – so much work; ministry – I must love, I must bear fruit, I must read my Bible, I must pray. I look and see no change, no transformation. I'm just so tired, so very tired. My name is Padma.

I receive a message from my church. Over the next four weeks a woman from a distant land is going to give a short course on how to understand and apply correct meaning of the Bible. I'm surprised she is coming in such heat. Most foreigners, and even locals, stay away from us this time of year. I know we all need this, but I'm so tired. I feel compelled to register and commit. I sense God is up to something.

The first day of the short course is here and, in spite of the heat, my children and I walk to the metro. When we finally arrive, despite tiredness and heavy burdens, my expectations rise. The introduction consists of worshipping together, and one of us opening in prayer. The woman from a distant land tells us to expect to receive from God because he wants to reveal himself to us. Wow! All this prepares my heart for what God is about to do.

The woman from a distant land says, 'Now let us start with what I call the *Secret of Success*,' and then she draws a tree! Adding some rain to the drawing she explains, 'In the natural water flows from high to low and for the branches to drink of the water, the water has to go down into the soil, up through the roots, through the main stem to the branches. As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual, as God created all things.' Her scripture reference is John 15:1-17. One by one we each read a verse out loud, in our own language. This I like. The woman from a distant land continues, 'Jesus says, "I am the vine." He is the main stem. Jesus says, "Come drink the living waters." The living waters, the Spirit of God, flows from the throne of God from the Father, through the Son, to the branches. Jesus says, "You are the branches."'



She continues, 'When we receive Jesus we receive his Holy Spirit within us. However, each day it is very important to drink, sit in his presence, receive a refreshing, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us, in us and through us.'

We also need to eat each day. In the natural, for the branches to eat the nutrients from the soil, the nutrients have to go up through the roots, through the main stem to the branches.

As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual, as God created all things.

Jesus said in John 4:34 that his food is to do the will of the Father and finish the work he sent him to do. When we sit in his presence, living in continual surrender to the Father's will, he will change us. Jesus' food becomes our food. Jesus' character becomes our character.

All this is the work of the Holy Spirit; our work is to receive all Jesus' goodness. Jesus guarantees you too will bear much fruit, his love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23'

We do the practical. I surrender all – my burdens, my busyness, my ministry, everything surrender to the will of the Father. We sit in silence, just receiving. I am so impacted by this. All burdens melt away. It was just five minutes but seems like an eternity. I have never experienced such things before. I am truly set free.

Over the course of the next four weeks I learn many, many things, built upon this simple yet profound foundational truth.

Despite the record high temperatures, personal challenges and gruelling schedule, people want to be empowered and the spiritually hungry come ready to receive. Many are set free spiritually, physically and mentally, and by his Spirit the fire within is burning bright, empowered with his truth to go and do likewise.

Jasmine shares her miraculous transformation: 'This (vine) diagram has been printed in my heart, it really helped me. Learnt our job is to soak in his presence. I used to think, I must love, I must be humble, I, I, I. When we have mind surrendered to will of the Father, the Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of the Spirit in us.'

'Last week session has changed the way I read the text, now from God's perspective and not from what I want the text to mean,' says Vanita.

Titiksha testifies, 'I used to judge people, but from the time of this (vine) diagram learnt it is not our work, but work of the Holy Spirit in them as well, so I let go of my judgment.'

Kaivalya declares, 'Most profound thing actually was if I read the whole passage of scripture with revelation and knowledge of God's love, then the meaning of the scripture comes out in a different profound light and gentleness.'

'My thirst is increasing and want more and in awe of him.' Raju declares excitedly.

Everyone testifies and gives thanks to God for revealing his glory. Yes, I have seen his glory and the coming of his kingdom...from above.

Such is the life of the wandering prophet.



Kingdom of God Short Course Delegate: 'Thank you, Father. You have given us such a wonderful revelation answering our prayers by giving us a revelation of who you are, thank you for this wonderful revelation of your love for us. We give you all the glory for reaching out to us, bless your servant for bringing such a powerful word to us, eye-opening scriptures we have read a thousand times, thank you this wonderful revelation of you.'

The *Good News Storybooks* use chronological Bible stories simply told from the viewpoint of the newly literate reader. Using short sentences, repeated words and illustrations from indigenous children, the *Good News Storybooks* empower the powerless.

'I enjoyed a lot with God. I could know all about God through this story. And many other good things we could learn through these stories. He created us.' – Prisha, aged 10



LIVES CHANGED FOREVER

TejasAsia runs empowerment programs bringing practical hope fuelled by positive action in the lives of the under-privileged. Tejas means brilliance, radiance, spiritual power or a synonym in Sanskrit for fire and light. Recognising that health, hygiene, nutrition, education, protection and social and spiritual development of children are all connected, TejasAsia's mission is 'to give hope and a future to all in Jesus' name' (Jeremiah 29:11). Growing up in the slums can be hard. However, TejasAsia, in partnership with the *Good News Storybooks* Project, are seeing lives changed forever.

Shanaya, a TejasAsia worker, explains, 'People are very poor here. To the kids we teach the *Good News Storybooks* program along with other school books. It is God's word and he is a living God and it should reach to everyone in the world. Kids enjoy it so much and are so interested in listening to us. When kids read these books it is God's word according to God. When it enters into kids heart, God will do the rest of the things. When they read the storybooks they will come to know God and God will do work in their lives. As they keep on reading the books their lives will be changing.

PROJECT UPDATE: 100% OF MONEY DONATED GOES TO THE FIELD

The project to date has been translated into nine heart languages, resourced 88,770 children with the *Good News Storybooks* as their first Bible and equipped 3,912 indigenous leaders with the *Good News Storybook Discipleship Program Manual*.

Anu, aged 12 – 'I like every things which are given in this books. In this whatever given about God like very well. I like that God created the trees and plants and first man and woman, God loves us so much and he will never do bad thing to us, God never lies, these things I like so much. Reading these stories I enjoyed a lot.

Those pictures were made very nicely that's why I am thankful to those kids who made. I like first book so much because they were singing for God like stars and animals. This book helps me learn Hindi language also.'

Shanti, aged 13 – 'Had so much fun we can't explain. Today we enjoyed a lot, there's no question about it, we can't explain. Everybody listened so carefully. We were able to know about this wild animals, those are unknown to us. Even though we did bad things God is so good. God told to not to eat that dirty fruit, they ate the fruit but God forgave them again and loved them. There are people in this world will never forgiving others, but God forgives.'



'I am very thankful for this book to God, and people who worked behind of it, who wrote God's word in a beautiful way, like a story like a scenery, like a picture to share with the people and I am very thankful to them.' – Samaira, aged 12.

'Thank you for these books. The people wrote these books in story way so that we can share God's word in easy way, put down on the paper their heart feelings, the love for their God they have shown through this book. Thank you to those kids to whom God used through this pictures and drawings, Let God may bless them abundantly.' – Usha aged 13

