



Pray for your enemies...

In Matthew 5:43-45 during Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes a startling command: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

From a region of Africa comes an amazing true story of what God is doing now in answer to prayers for enemies.

A woman in Africa was poised to become a suicide bomber, to blow herself up in a local market. I will call her Carla. Before she could do the deed, Carla had a profound dream.

A Man in dazzling white stood before her and said: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Follow me. You will preach the gospel."

Shaken, Carla sought out a Christian woman who explained the good news. Carla believed and was made totally new. A few days later, she had another dream in which the Man told her: "Carla, go and share this good news with the regional commander." That commander was greatly feared and happened to lead one of the most radical groups in the area, responsible for the deaths of thousands.

Before she went to his well-guarded camp, Carla kept hearing from those around her, "You are crazy. Don't go. You'll never make it. They will kill you." Miraculously, she made it through every armed checkpoint, alive. Then the commander strangely granted her an audience.

Keenly aware that with just a word the commander could end her life, Carla spoke: "Jesus wants you to know that He is the way, the truth and the life." Rather than kill her, the commander went to a table in his office, sat down and began to weep.

Sitting at his desk, this man who was greatly feared just wept. He told Carla: "Three days ago, Jesus appeared to me in a dream. He told me that I was on a path of destruction. I must change my ways. If I don't, I will be destroyed. Then he told me that a woman was going to come and tell me about the gospel!"

She did, as best she could. He believed and they prayed! Made totally new in Christ, he then gave orders for all his officers to come to the camp, three truck loads came. When they arrived, he told them the truth, that Jesus was the true and living God. Carla sought out Jesus Film® staff in the country who sent in video tablets containing the "JESUS" film in the local language so the fighters could fully see, hear, and understand the gospel.

Every night since, these radicals have been watching “JESUS” in their heart language. At last count, nearly 1,000 people have given their lives to Christ and renounced terror.

AND YET, GOD IS DOING FAR MORE

The best part is that, under the commander’s influence, the doors have swung wide open to share the gospel with tens of thousands in this otherwise dangerous area. Staff leaders are saying there is a movement of evangelism unfolding that is “beyond belief – with skyrocketing opportunities ...”



New believers are asking if they can be equipped with Jesus Film video tablets so they can fan out and share the good news with their families and many others. They want them to see, hear, and understand the gospel, to also be delivered from spiritual darkness into His transforming light. It is amazing what is happening right in the midst of radical territory.

Pray with us for more fruitful movements of God among enemies! Perhaps now is the time to pray for Russia’s political, military and business leaders, for God’s love to overwhelm them as well and change their lives.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Pray for the 1000 summer mission students going out around the world this summer, that God would use them to start movements of spiritual multiplication in new places as they trust the Lord to use them.
2. Pray for wisdom for Andy and Ryoko as they continue to search for a home to rent or buy here in Orlando.
3. Pray for Rochelle as she completes her studies of 2 Institute of Biblical Studies courses this May and June. They are Biblical Interpretation and Biblical Communication.
4. Pray for wisdom for improvements to how we present Cru ministry opportunities as Steve and other leaders work together to bring change.

Thanks for your prayers and generous gifts for our ministry with Cru.

*With love in Jesus,
Steve & Rochelle*