

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

"And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'" Rev 21:5. I have always appreciated this characteristic of the Lord, that He is always making things new. We get stuck, we wish things would change, but He knows this about us and is doing new things to bring changes and growth to our lives. He also brings changes in ministry like this story from one of our staff.

Recently on a training trip to the Holy Land, he taught a group of 20 recent converts to Christianity from another faith how to lead Obedience Based Bible Studies for young converts.

One woman among the excited trainees said, "I led 5 ladies to the Lord last year after they were working in my house but I did not follow up with them or disciple them or teach them because they were too afraid to go to a church and I did not know what to do with them." After the training she said, "I am going back to find those ladies, I know where they stay. I can now start a small group of Obedience Based Bible Studies that I learned at the training." She further said, "I now know that I can also play a huge role in discipling people even if they cannot come to a church building."



Our staff member heard Andre's story of coming to Christ. This young disciple was eager to share it.

Andre sat close to me and said, "I want to tell you how I met Jesus. About two years ago while asleep, I had a dream and a person in dazzling white appeared to me but said nothing. I woke up not knowing what this was so I went to a Muslim cleric and told him what I had dreamed about. He said that many people have such dreams and that I was to forget about it, it's nothing. I felt troubled that I did not have the correct answer and it bothered me, so I went to another four clerics, who said the same thing. Eventually the fifth cleric told me it was Satan who appeared in my dream. I became angry at the thought of Satan visiting me and did not bother to ask any more questions.

About a year later he said he had another similar dream. This time the same person in dazzling white said, "Andre, what are you waiting for?" He responded to the person in his dream, "Who are you?" And the person said, "Emmanuel." He did not know what this word meant, so Andre asked a good friend of his on Facebook what "Emmanuel" meant and he said, "God is with us." Andre told his friend the dreams he had and his friend said, "Andre, do you want to know Emmanuel?" He said, "Yes, I don't know how but whenever I meet Him in my dreams I feel at peace."

It turns out Andre's friend was a believer in Christ who had been praying for his salvation for some time. Andre prayed to receive Christ.

Would you take a moment to pray for our staff who are training up disciples in this area and for the growth of many more disciples through them? Try watching this video from our friends at Cru's magazine, Worldwide Challenge. <http://www.worldwidechallenge.org/content/worldwide-challenge-video> As you watch, think of young believers like Andre and pray for them as they step out in faith to share Christ and disciple others.

We are so thankful for you and the big role you play in the fruit God brings through our service!

With love and thanks,
Steve, Rochelle and family