

Compassion Happens Here

By Brenda Boston, Alliance missionary to Paraguay

Compassion happens in out-of-the-way places by people virtually unknown to the rest of the world. People whose lives emulate the love of Jesus. People like Ignacio and his wife. They run a small cafeteria in the market section of San Lorenzo, where occasionally children will beg for food. To teach them the value of earning a living, rather than giving them food, Ignacio has the children sweep or clear the tables, and then he serves them a nice meal.

Limpia was an adolescent when she began going by the cafeteria regularly. Ignacio found out she was not going to school and offered to have her live with his family. She would help out part time in the cafeteria and attend school regularly.

Limpia finished her minimum educational requirement and now attends beauty school. She also was baptized after completing a new believers class. She is now 16 and teaches Sunday school to the preschoolers.

Limpia's entire destiny was changed by Ignacio's kindness. And now, Limpia's little sister Belen and her cousin Andrea are benefitting from Ignacio's compassionate care. He has taken in five children during the past five years that we have known him.

Ignacio and his daughter Nancy are enrolled in seminary with funds that benefit Alliance Great Commission Ministries. Offerings designated for Paraguay help provide dental care and school supplies for the girls Ignacio and his family help—girls like Limpia, Belen, Andrea, Vanesa, and others.

Compassion starts with lives transformed by the power of the gospel of Christ. When Ignacio was baptized, he was overcome with gratitude for all that Jesus has done for him. Christ's love compels Ignacio to love others. He can't help everyone, but he is making a profound impact on society—one life at a time.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious (Psalm 103:8).

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Peace at Last

At the Cali West (Alliance) Church in Colombia, the question was asked during the service, "How have you seen the power of God at work?" An elderly gentleman replied, "God has transformed my life." Within a week, Camilo entered the presence of the Lord when he suffered a heart attack.

"A faithful attendee of the men's breakfast, Camilo was an inspiration to many," said Alliance missionary Naomi Ord. He even joined a group of mothers who pray for their children because he wanted his to know Christ, and he didn't care that he was the only father in the group. "After searching all his life in all the major religions and philosophies of the world, he found peace with God," said Ord. "Pray that Camilo's five children, his sister, and two brothers will come to know Christ as he did."

Alliance Believers Persecuted

Christians from an Alliance national church in a Guinea, West Africa, village are in the throes of severe persecution because of their faith. Approximately six miles from N'Zao, where CAMA's Hope Clinic provides medical and dental help for the poor and needy, is Yalenzou, where believers have refused to participate in a traditional religious ritual of "tattooing" young men.

"They take the young men behind a palm thatch fence and mark their chests with 40-50 cuts that will become permanent scars," said a CAMA worker. "They say that these are the devil's teeth marks, and it signifies that they have been killed and eaten by the devil."

The Yalenzou church is strong, and the majority of its members refuse to obey orders given by the sect, sparking confrontation between the two religions. "Christians have been stoned and beaten," said our worker, "and the church was burned to the ground."

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PRAISE GOD

- for Limpia's new faith and servant's heart
- that Camilo is rejoicing in heaven now
- for believers in Guinea whose faith is firm despite persecution

PRAY

- that God will draw more into His Kingdom through Ignacio's ministry
- that Camilo's family will come to Jesus
- for God to be glorified in Yalenzou village

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



Alliance Ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund (USA), CAMA Advance Fund, and Global Advance Fund (Canada).

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