

A Second Chance

By Kaduna,* an Alliance worker serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina

I had had little exposure to drug addiction before I began leading a home group in Bosnia comprised mostly of ex-addicts in 2005. Sadly, some in the group have turned their backs on the freedom offered through Christ's blood. One young man, Benjamin,* has embraced that freedom and is devoting his life to helping others do the same.

Benjamin and another young believer, Danijel,* both former drug addicts, started a ministry in the fall of 2008—Proslavi Oporavak (Celebrate Recovery). Their ministry helps ex-addicts successfully reintegrate into their families and society after leaving rehab. It's a subject with which Benjamin is intimately familiar.

Benjamin was born and raised in a middle-class Bosnian family. His parents gave him everything he could have ever wanted. But he began using marijuana, alcohol, and pills at the age of 15, because he was bored and his friends were using too, he says.

After completing high school in 1992—days before the war broke out and Bosnia's borders were closed—Benjamin and a friend set out for Germany on what they thought would be the adventure of a lifetime. But Benjamin soon began using heroin, which led to increasing criminal activity and jail for a year.

Once released, Benjamin was immediately extradited to Bosnia and banned for life from returning to Germany. He hoped that returning to his homeland would give him a fresh start, but he quickly fell back into using drugs.

Benjamin finally decided to enter a drug rehab center in Croatia, sponsored by evangelicals from Spain. There he heard the gospel and accepted Christ. After serving as a counselor for nearly four years, he heard God's call to return to Bosnia. He obediently returned in 2006, unsure of what lay ahead.

Once in Bosnia, Benjamin began attending an evangelical church, and the Lord additionally provided him with a job and housing. Benjamin has since helped many young men and women readjust to life after treatment and encouraged many more to go to rehab. A recent, generous gift from Alliance Women Ministries to their "Women in Crisis" project will provide needed funds to help Proslavi Oporavak serve the families of ex-addicts who have the greatest needs. Benjamin and his staff plan to expand their services, conducting monthly visits with the families of those in drug rehab to build relationships that give opportunities to share the gospel.

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Harvest In Cambodia

By Soeuth and Syna Lao

Happy New Year! It seems that we were just getting ready for December's activities, and already it's the end of January 2010. We trust you had a wonderful and blessed Christmas holiday.

The eight churches (plus guests) came together on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus. About 600 people attended and stayed throughout the two-hour service! Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying the Christmas songs, dances, skits, and testimonies, followed by a powerful Christmas message.

Ever since the November 28 baptism service, we've been witnessing more people coming forward to receive Jesus every week! I am not sure of the exact numbers, but at least two or three people come to know the Lord weekly.

Some even came willingly to have the spirit strings from around their bodies cut off. (For Khmer people, wearing spirit strings around their waists or wrists signifies that they fear and belong to the Evil Master of this world.) More new believers are signing up for discipleship classes.

Looking back, all eight young churches in the Poipet and Malay areas experienced some hard times toward the end of 2009. But clearly, as we have seen, God was preparing the fields for harvest. Please pray for more workers to join us in Poipet ministries.

The Alliance Helps Haitians

After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, on January 12, an eyewitness at the scene reports that the city was "gray with dust." Nearly 170,000 are confirmed dead, and tens of thousands of people have been wandering the streets, dazed and sobbing—hoping desperately for assistance.

Caleb Deliard, a U.S. Alliance pastor and former president of the Haitian South Association of the C&MA, reports that thousands of people, including his brother's family, have been living on a soccer field in Port-au-Prince. Many of them have broken limbs. Those who are strong enough have been able to reach relief supplies, but many of the orphans, elderly, and infirm have been unable to get help.

CAMA (Compassion and Mercy Associates), the C&MA's relief and development arm, responded quickly to the crisis in Haiti, offering tangible help—along with the hope of the gospel—to those impacted by the quake. The generosity of Alliance people continues to pour in. More than \$400,000 has been received thus far.

CAMA is committed to working with a number of Alliance entities that have contact with Alliance-related churches in Haiti, including the Metropolitan District, the Southeastern District, the Puerto Rican District, the Haitian Association, and the C&MA of the Dominican Republic.

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To receive The Alliance Call to Prayer electronically, contact webmaster@cmalliance.org.

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



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