

WHO WILL SHARE WITH THEM?



PRAY

Pray for new believers to learn just how good God is and that they can draw near to him in faith.

Pray for women like Zara to understand that God can satisfy their deepest needs.

Pray for missionaries like Ann to enable church women to grow spiritually and in doing so prepare them to share the gospel with their neighbours.

ANN LIVES IN A CULTURE WHERE MEN AND WOMEN DO NOT SPEAK FREELY TO EACH OTHER.

HOW WILL THEY HEAR?

Although this derives particularly from the Muslim majority culture here in eastern Chad, many women in the local church – all from the south of Chad – are also not used to expressing opinions in front of men. So how will they hear the gospel unless there are women to witness to them? How can those taking tentative steps to follow Christ grow in faith if there are no women willing to share with them?

A NEED TO GO DEEPER

Many of the local women with whom I talk have little understanding of their religion and apparently no idea of being committed to God. The God they hear of is distant and not to be known personally. Religion to them is following rules. For most, their concern is not with big questions about the meaning of life or the nature of good and evil, but problems closer to home e.g. How can they stop their husband taking a second wife or help their children be healthy? Women may have memorised parts of the Quran and recite them, but they believe it is the recitation – not understanding the text – which will bring blessing. These ideas flow over into the lives of those who decide to follow our Lord. They don't consider that growing in faith is necessary, good, or even possible.

ACCEPTANCE WITHOUT ABIDING

One lady, Zara, illustrates some of the difficulties. She is from southern Chad, so she doesn't speak the local language, understands very little French and not much more Arabic. About 15 months ago, she reputedly accepted Christ after a visit from a pastor. But we saw little or no fruit from her decision. She didn't come to church or the women's group. I decided to do Bible studies with her, listening to the Bible in her own language and then discussing in Arabic what it says.

FAITHFUL, STEADY WITNESSING

As I understood her the first time, she didn't know what salvation was nor of our separation from God without Christ. But she prayed to accept Christ (in her own language – so I don't know what she said). A month or so later, she had a stillborn child and many church women were very attentive.

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For the last three months, we have translated sermons into Arabic and used some Arabic in women's midweek meetings. Perhaps all these factors have encouraged Zara to come to the church and, sometimes, to the women's group, and I have seen a softening of her character.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ANN

Ann works among an unreached people group in northern Chad, supporting a local church through leading the women's group and being part of the church's leadership team, as well as talking to people about following Jesus. She also treats mentally ill and epileptic patients in the government district hospital.

eu.aimint.org/ann