



# THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

Ministry can look very different in nations where Christians can't freely share their faith. Our Nigerian colleague Deborah\*, has found that those who have come to faith have done so through friendship, either directly or indirectly.

## FRIENDSHIP LEADS TO FREEDOM

By the time we met Patience\*, a girl from Nigeria, we were the third family she had been hired out to as a housekeeper/nanny. Unknown to us, she was actually a victim of human trafficking. A woman, whose business was bringing young girls from poor families in West Africa to this country, had promised Patience's relatives a better future for her. But the girls usually ended up being used for housekeeping or sex work. Patience was spiritually oppressed, sickly and depressed.

I became friendly with her, taking interest in her welfare, speaking kindly to her, giving small gifts, and most importantly praying earnestly for her. She eventually opened up to me about her life story. This gave me the opportunity of preaching Christ to her. She became saved and her life was transformed.

One of the first things I did, by the grace of God, was to teach her how to read the Scriptures by herself. That had a deep impact on her spiritual growth. Today, Patience is reunited with her parents. She has established her own sewing business and has joined a Bible-believing church.

## LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Marie\* is a local lady who was an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) student, who I taught in 1:1 classes. During the class I would show a genuine interest in her wellbeing, asking about her family, her husband. After the classes ended, I still maintained a good relationship with her.

Sometimes she invites me to restaurants, just to meet together and have discussions. Though I am still yet to preach Christ directly to her, I have already laid the foundation. I believe she isn't far from receiving salvation.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIPS

Friendship evangelism is vital in reaching out to women. And in this culture, friendship across the gender divide is almost unknown.

Pray for Deborah and others who are reaching out in this way and that more women would join them.

