



FROM PRISON TO

KINGDOM BUILDING



Ruby* talks of her experience walking the discipleship road with Joy* during her time in North Africa.

HOW DID YOU FIRST MEET JOY?

I met her three years ago. She had moved up to our area due to her husband's job. There was no church in our city at all, and she felt very alone. She knew a friend in another city about two hours away who happened to know one of our colleagues there, and so we were connected in a roundabout sort of way.

WAS JOY ALREADY A CHRISTIAN?

She was a believer, but she had relied on the church to keep her going. She had first encountered Jesus in her early 20s when she was wrongly imprisoned. After being encouraged by the prison chaplain to pray from the heart - instead of her usual Islamic ritual prayers - she had a dream in which Jesus told her he would provide a way for her freedom. Later that week she

was set free from prison! But once home she forgot the dream and what God had done for her.

Ten years later she found herself in a miserable marriage with two young children and contemplating ending things. But the dream came back to her mind. So, she researched Jesus online and found a local male believer on Facebook. After months of conversation, he encouraged her to meet the female believers in the city. She went to a party they were having - a Christmas party! They presented the gospel message to her and she wept in wonder at the gift of Christ and submitted to Jesus as her Lord.

HOW HAVE YOU JOURNEYED WITH JOY?

She'd never read the Word in the local dialect, and much of our initial interactions were reading, studying the Word and praying together. It was amazing to see it come alive to her. We'd usually

meet at least once a week to talk about life and study the Word. Her husband is not a believer so we'd often talk through the challenges in her marriage, and see what the Word had to say and pray for her husband. Amazingly, though he is not a believer, he grudgingly accepts that she is. During Ramadan, we'd sit on her bed in the bedroom with the door shut, studying, and praying for him and the whole community around us stuck in darkness.

WHAT HAS BEEN A SPECIAL MOMENT?

A few months after meeting her, Joy decided to get baptised. It was an immense privilege to be part of that day with her. We (the colleague from the city two hours away, two local sisters who travelled for the day, and I) 'dunked' (baptised) her in the sea. It was a very cold April day and we nearly got washed away by the high waves! Afterwards, we sat on the beach eating breakfast, huddling over hot tea and hearing her testimony.

HOW IS GOD USING JOY?

Joy has caught the vision for sharing the good news herself. We frequently discussed conversations she had with different people and how she could address their objections. Her vision and prayer is that God would use her home to build his kingdom in our city. We'd love to see her husband come to faith and for them to be a household of faith reaching out to their community.

HELP BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

Pray that all of Joy's family would come to know Jesus and that her home would be used to build God's kingdom.

Help send more women like Ruby, women of prayer who can reach out and disciple other women.

eu.aimint.org/give