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Release Women Email - May 2020

Hello Friend

All out for God!

'Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony...' John 4:39

This verse comes almost at the end of the well-known passage from John's gospel of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus meets the woman as he sits and rests alone at the well on the edge of the Samaritan town, Sychar, while the disciples go into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman comes alone to draw water at noon. What has caused this woman to self-isolate in this way, and to fetch water in the heat of the day when she knows there will be no one else around? The conversation she has with Jesus about her past gives an insight into her life. Perhaps she had been shunned by the rest of the village because of her 'interesting' life so far! Whatever the reason, her encounter with Jesus changes her life. She understands that Jesus is the Messiah, the promised Christ.

The woman's reaction to Jesus' confirmation that he is indeed the Messiah is immediate. She leaves her water jar and rushes back to the town, to the very people she has been trying to avoid. She urges them to come with her to meet Jesus; she wants to share her discovery of the source of living water and eternal life with others. In every sense of the words she goes 'all out for God!' Her missionary zeal was so effective that many of the Samaritans from the town believed in Him because of her testimony that He had told her everything she had ever done (John 4:39).

Last Sunday, Release International held a live Facebook event, **All Out for God**, to encourage everyone during this time of partial lockdown and restrictions on gathering together in our church buildings to step outside to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters. If you missed it, you can still watch it [here](#) on Facebook, even if you don't have a Facebook account.

We know that going 'all out for God' can be very costly for our persecuted family. We think of Twen, who remains in prison for her faith in Eritrea. But we know that she remains faithful and is living out a life of service to God, even from her prison cell. We think of Nawab Bibi, whose husband Zafar remains in prison on blasphemy charges in Pakistan. But we know that she continues to put her trust in God, despite her separation from her husband. We think of the women in Gonan Rogo village, Nigeria, whose children were killed in a midnight raid by Fulani militants just a few weeks ago. But we give thanks that a three-month old baby survived, even though a bullet penetrated her skull and her mother was killed.

By going 'all out for God' and immediately sharing the Gospel, the Samaritan woman at the well risked humiliation and further isolation from the village. By us going 'all out for God' and stepping outside our front or back doors to pray for our persecuted family, and especially for our sisters mentioned above, we may risk some strange looks from our neighbours, some giggles behind twitching curtains. But surely that's a risk worth taking, so let's keep on stepping outside and going all out for God!

Blessings

Release Women team

