

WEEK 50 • DECEMBER 16, 2023

Unnamed Country: Breaking the Curse

Psalm 46:1-3—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.”

Sunny* is a Waldensian, a Global Mission project in which young Adventists live, study, and serve at a secular university in the Middle East or North Africa. These students make friends while studying and quietly share with them the message of salvation in Jesus.

Sunny met Salma, a local student who is a member of a non-Christian family. The two girls became friends. Salma learned that her new friend is an Adventist Christian. Salma had been taught to be wary of Christians, but Sunny seemed so kind and honest.

As their friendship grew, Salma accepted Sunny's invitation to attend Friday evening meetings at Sunny's house. Salma liked meeting other Adventists and enjoyed their friendly conversation. Near the end of the school year, Sunny invited Salma to visit an Adventist church where nearly all those attending were international students.

Salma enjoyed the meetings. But her parents learned that she was attending a Christian church. They warned her that they all would be cursed if she became a Christian. But Salma continued attending the church. Soon Salma asked for Bible studies. The girls studied the Bible weekly, but Sunny was still worried that her family would be cursed if she became a Christian.

Then one Sabbath the group took part in a meditative activity in which each one took a card and read the Bible text on it. Salma's card read: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16:31 NKJV).

Salma realized that she didn't have to worry about a curse falling on her or her family. She stood up and announced with a trembling voice that she wanted to accept Jesus as her Savior and be baptized! Sunny and Salma wept with joy.

Experiences like this have inspired Sunny to continue serving as a Waldensian student. “I will stay in the Middle East to develop friendships with people like Salma. This is a great way to touch the hearts of the people who do not know Jesus in this region.”

Part of our Promise offerings help support, train, and send Waldensian students like Sunny to universities in the Middle East and North Africa. We may not be able to go and serve, but we can support those who can serve by giving our faithful Promise offerings.

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*The names have been changed to preserve the identity of the young women in this true story.