

Imagine what it would be like to be the first in your family – a long line of Muslim believers – to leave the faith and put your trust in Jesus Christ. You would probably face a lot of rejection from your family; scorn for making such a decision; and heaviness felt by walking out this new faith alone. Seven women in the Nanerige tribe are “the firsts” – the first in their families to leave behind their Muslim beliefs and follow Christ.

Fatimata is the first in her family to be in a church. Though she hasn’t made the choice to be baptized yet, the missionary team in N’Dorola (Phil and Carol Bergen and Blaine and Michelle Warner), overheard her scolding a neighbor who sells them peanut butter. She said to this woman, “Don’t think that just being friends with them (the missionaries) is good enough. You need to find out what makes them the way they are. They are following God’s ways. You should do that too!”

Fatimata is so convinced by the Word of God that she is ready to tell others who do not yet know. Becoming the first Christian in a Muslim family will bring some complications for her when she decides to get baptized, but she will not be alone in facing the challenge.

Seven women in N’Dorola – 3 of whom have been baptized – are helping define what this will mean for others who come after them. They are all pioneers – and this can be tricky. One of these women ties amulets to her children to protect them from evil forces. Another has a husband who follows tradition and sleeps around with young unmarried women. Another shares her husband with his other wife. Neither of these husbands has come to church – yet.

Another woman has been attending church with her husband, but is deeply concerned about what Christianity might cost them since she may be sterile. If she and her husband give their lives to Christ, they will not be able to add a second wife who can bear the children who will care for them all in their old age. How would you react if becoming Christian meant giving up your retirement?

Each woman is precious. Though their journeys of faith look much different than ours in North America, Jesus is patiently and graciously leading them through the challenges of following Christ in families where none have done this before.

Join us in prayer for these 7 Nanerige women – and people all around the world – who have left everything they know to count the cost of following Christ.

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.

– Mark 10:28-30

STORIES OF PRAYER

Preparing the Way

The Winter TREK team to Ukraine has taken the initiative to clean up and repair a playground in Zaporozhye.

The playground is situated in a parking lot surrounded by dumpsters overflowing with trash. The trash is strewn about the street releasing an overwhelming stench that rises to the apartment buildings on either side. These are common scenes encountered almost daily by the TREK team since arriving in Ukraine in March 2009. Littered with garbage, glass, and needles, this little area of the community has been adopted by the group of 7 young adults and dedicated to God to see what He will do with it. They wait in expectation.

Their plan is to clean up the trash, repaint the worn play set and hire a welder to repair broken park equipment. As they pray into this corner of the community, they’re boldly asking God to make this playground a place that will shine His light. The team is praying that this physical work will be seen and manifest itself in spiritual interest.

Relationships were already formed after day one of cleaning the litter. In just 2 short hours the TREKers cleared out most of the trash. A few people stopped by, and one man helped rake leaves and dig out a tree stump. After meeting the group, another woman invited them over to her place. The people they encountered were so grateful, and the TREKers are already beginning to see the fruit of this small ministry. God is sending forth His message of love!

The TREK team counted 25 needles in one small pile of leaves. Pray for Ukraine, as it has the highest rate of HIV in all of Europe. But God is at work, and the possibilities for this small playground are endless. Praise God for this group of TREKers and ask the Lord to continue bringing people to the park where they can see the work that is being accomplished and experience God’s great love!

If you would like to stay up to date on this project, you can visit TREK participants Steve and Jo Harder’s blog. On this site you can watch a video they made of the park project: www.thestevejoadventure.blogspot.com

Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations

– Isaiah 62:10

TREK is a six or ten month intense journey of cross-cultural mission for ages 20+. Paired with international church planters, TREK teams learn by example what it means to be servant missionaries. For more information visit www.mbmsi.org/trek

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MBMS International
transforming lives in mission

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Laurence & Leona Hiebert JAPAN	2 TREK debrief Abbotsford, BC	3 MBMSI Lead Team Abbotsford, BC	4 John & Evelyn Wiens UKRAINE	5 Wendy Eros JAPAN	6 Alfredo & Sandra Beltran MEXICO
7 Barbara Block INDIA	8 Bob & Christine Davis THAILAND	9 J & F RESTRICTED	10 Trevor & Joan Godard MEXICO	11 Jim & Marilou Nightingale BRAZIL	12 Cynthia Friesen THAILAND	13 John N. and Mary Klassen <i>Returned from GERMANY</i>
14 Rob & Judy Griffioen THAILAND	15 Baudouin & Marie-Brigitte Nsulunka SOUTH AFRICA	16 Otto & Marjorie Ekk PORTUGAL	17 Kevin & Karlene Klassen THAILAND	18 Sandra Plett MEXICO	19 Missionary Training Institute Graduates	20 MBMSI Office Staff Winnipeg, MB
21 Otto & Lidia Funk PERU	22 Russ & Marj Speiser FRANCE	23 Regional Mobilizers	24 Robert & Anne Thiessen MEXICO	25 Melvin & Gudrun Warkentin PARAGUAY	26 Samir & Lewiza RESTRICTED	27 ACTION
28 Blaine & Michelle Warner BURKINA FASO	29 Ken & Marilyn Fast BRAZIL	30 Member Care Volunteer Team				