

Walls

By S & D

There are walls going up everywhere we look. Some are made of brick and wire, others are made of fear and shame. But God is tearing them down.

Two hundred new police stations have been built, and armed patrols of soldiers on the streets are now the norm in this city. New gates and razor wire fencing are going up around every building, neighborhood and park. Political instability has led to extreme measures, with homes searched and people detained and questioned by the police. We have been warned not to do anything to draw attention to ourselves, because it could endanger our local friends. Some have withdrawn from us because of that fear and then, over time, because of shame.

We fight protectionism and fear with small acts of kindness aimed to gain the most precious commodity of all: trust. We take out garbage for the elderly, give water to those who cannot pay their water bills, lend out our cell phones. The neighbors call us, "people who help". But the walls remain. There was a day when I felt especially discouraged, when I wondered if the walls were too thick and high for God to overcome. That day, I asked the Lord for some small sign of hope.

As I walked home I saw Alex, a guard from a local neighborhood. He walked up to me with a big smile and greeted me by name, asking me how I was. This man had never before given me so much as a slight wave! Fifty yards further on I saw Eli, who works at a local restaurant. He came out, smiled, walked up to me and also greeted me by name, asking me how my day was. Again, this was a man who up until that moment had never even spoken to me.

I knew the Lord was trying to tell me something, and I now walked with expectancy. In the short four hundred yards left to walk to my house three more men met me with smiles, greetings and handshakes, men whom I had seen before but had never interacted with. All of them wanted to know how I was doing. By then, I had to answer: "My God is really, really good."

And so the walls come down.



"Je n'existe pas"

By AK

"I don't exist," our friend tells us. A former Muslim, now following Jesus in Paris, his face twists with emotion and he shares his story.

"I don't have papers, so I live on the street. I can't work or even take training courses because I am not in the system. This is just my reality." He pauses. "Still, I cannot help but share my faith. The police are everywhere and all they have to do is ask for my papers, and off I go. But at least they are near to protect me, in case there are radical Islamists who see me talking about Jesus."

Our friend went on to share story after story with us of all the ways in which God has used him to witness to others in the roughest immigrant areas of this Western European city where we live.

"Some days I am too tired to share," he told us. "On one particular day I was standing there on the street feeling sad about my situation. This time, another believer walked up and prayed for me! I felt strengthened."

Our friend is one of many Muslim believers that comes to stand with us at the market place on Friday mornings. And each time, we are amazed. There is such beauty in their witness, knowing and speaking the heart language of the people passing by. The miracle of them having stepped outside of their entire faith community to follow the Messiah shows others that it can be done.

Even to those who scoff and leer the Spirit still speaks, long after the conversations at the market have ended, in the quiet hours. God is moving powerfully here, through those whose minds are set on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Those who, here on earth, don't even exist.



Daily Prayer Guide

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Tyler & Cheryl Schulz Burundi	2 PK & C Restricted	3 Somdy & Chanh Jusse Thailand	4 G & G Restricted	5 Jen Schmidt Mexico	6 A & R Restricted
7 Jamie & Leah Munday Thailand	8 D & M Restricted	9 Jon & Bonnie Esau Thailand	10 D & S Restricted	11 Doris Goertz Japan	12 Oasis Restricted	13 Alan & Colleen Foster Panama
14 T & R Restricted	15 Jeremy & Adrienne Penner Thailand	16 R & M S Restricted	17 John Ervin Worldwide	18 Richard & Hazel Funk Austria	19 Trevor & Joan Godard Mexico	20 Katie Mount Thailand
21 Gediminas & Kristina Dailyde Lithuania	22 Barbara Block India	23 Roxy Neufeld Mexico	24 Einer & Girlesa Zuluaga Panama	25 Tony & Roxanna Petersen Germany	26 Bob Davis Thailand	27 Heinrich & Annie Rempel Germany
28 Junji & Hitomi Nukaga Thailand	29 B & M Germany	30 Cecil & Tracy Ramos Thailand	31 K & K Restricted			