

The Word Among Us: Epilogue

After our team's "month out" research, we met together in Cana for a week and a half. The days were full of heartwrenching goodbyes to our team, our neighbors, and village friends, while giving away our goods. When I went to visit Kellie she said, "I'm an old lady and I may not live till you come back to see me again. But when I die I will go to be with Jesus, and when you die you will also be with Jesus, and then we will be together forever in our Father's House!"

Our final goodbye to the team came in Bethany. Together with Priscilla and Aquila, we enjoyed dinner at a nice hotel on the beach and the group presented us with a quilt they had sewn. On it was what had become the team song and slogan, "Wewe ni Ebenezer," "You are our Ebenezer" (rock of help). While Colin and I spent six months in the USA for a home assignment, the team completed their work in Cana under the good administration of Aquila and Priscilla as their team leaders and the AIM storying consultant, Barnabus.

Just before Christmas and after a group debrief, they all returned to their homes. The team's official program and course of study was over. Their "training in ministry outreach" (TIMO) was complete. What would they do next? And what would God do next in Cana as a result of our team's investment?

To our great joy, after their home assignment several team members decided to return to live in Cana and continue ministering there. Ruth, Peter and Deborah, also Joseph and Mary with their children all returned. One of the first to welcome them back was Timothy. He was eager to learn and share Scripture with Nancy.

God put new political leaders in place who were very eager for these Christians to return and live among them again. An official letter of invitation from the town leaders has made it clear the doors are wide open for ongoing ministry, especially Scripture translation and teaching.

Many people have believed in Christ now. In November of 2015, an historic gathering was held in Cana in the small TAG church. Over 40 believers from 12 villages and a variety of denominations met together for a four-day training in being and making disciples to Jesus. About fifteen believers from other ethnic groups also attended. Great unity and desire to share the gospel widely was felt by all.

The breakthrough prayer of the workers now is, **"Father, we ask You to raise up disciple makers who will catalyze a movement that will spread throughout the hills and beyond!"** (If you would like to learn part 2 of this story, email me at beccamcdougall12@gmail.com and I'll put you in contact with those who continue on.)

