

A Bubbling Church

I met Tina when she was 16, newly saved and eager to learn and serve. When Tina turned 19, she felt called by God and was sent by her church to a little town. Three others were also sent with her. They first found jobs working in a restaurant while adjusting to the different culture and language. Because of the closed nature of the culture, the small group of outsiders was not welcomed. For over six months, they did not see any sign of an open door for the Gospel. After months of prayer and roaming through the streets, they discovered an area where high school students often hung out after school. They started making friends with them and began praying for them that they would know God. One by one, these students began to individually seek the Lord for the difficulties they were facing. Some were personal challenges, and others family issues, etc. After experiencing miraculous answers to prayers, many of them submitted their lives to Jesus. By the time J and I first visited there, within two years, 13 young disciples were living out their testimonies as Christians. They were among the top students in school: three were class leaders and one was a captain of a sport. One student in particular even had to quit school and work for his family farm, but that didn't cease his passion in sharing the hope found in Christ. He led four to know the Lord and continues to disciple them today. The stories are endless about how these students have experienced God and through daily interactions they learned to serve one another, which demonstrated the goodness of their Living God as they approached friends and teachers.

On a separate occasion, a shoe repair lady was brought to me for prayer. She had been suffering from chronic kidney problems and required constant medical treatment. Consequently, it exhausted herself and her family financially. After praying for her, I had no idea that it would lead to open doors for the whole community to know the Lord.

When I visited the small town again two years later, so much had changed. Seven of the thirteen students had graduated and moved back to their prospective hometowns, and four students had begun leading their own outreach groups. The shoe repair lady had been healed of her sickness since being prayed for and through her healing, her husband came to know the Lord. This lady now discipled another lady—an owner of a grocery store—and along with her husband, they are also reaching out to three other families. Tina, now 21, walked me through the town and pointed out a particular street where half of the store owners had become saved. She updated me on their personal stories with what Jesus was doing in their lives and families. I'm happy to say that this church is still bubbling in the community today.