



February 2008

Another January Crash

Unlike Tim's bike crash last year, this year's January crash didn't break any bones. This year it was the van that was totaled. For those of you who didn't get the January update (which would be because we don't have an email address for you) and to bring everyone up to date, here's what happened: Lisa was involved in a car accident in which our van was totaled. No one was hurt and it turned out to be a real blessing as our van was needing some major repairs. We found another used van and life is back to normal.

I'm finally able to start sharing stories of lives being touched through *Magdalena: Released From Shame*. Here are two.

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In one North African country, the JESUS Film national director met the manager of a cinema in a major city to discuss a possible premiere of *Magdalena: Released From Shame*. The manager, who initially told him he would have to pay a large sum of money to show the film in the theater, said he needed to get the owner's approval. The manager called the owner and asked, "Do you want to rent it to them?" The national director met with the owner, who responded with enthusiasm, saying, "It's a blessing for this film to be shown in this theater." As a result, the owner agreed to premiere the film for free

Phoebe*, a local upper-class woman, attended this premiere of *Magdalena: Released From Shame*. Prior to the film, Phoebe had a violent argument with her husband during which he had beaten her. Despite the abuse, Phoebe was determined to keep her promise to a friend to attend the film premiere. After she watched the movie, she testified: "I came to this film, I was hurt, I was wounded, I was unappreciated. By watching this film, I was able to see how the prophet has honored the woman. He healed and uplifted her." Phoebe expressed interest in knowing more about Christianity and received a copy of the New Testament. After reading some of it and asking many questions, she told a ministry worker: "Please help me. I want to take the step to follow Jesus. I am fully convinced of it, but I need to take a step of faith." Praise God for Phoebe and many more women like her who are coming to faith because of this film!

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In one Central Asian country, a believing woman named Lydia* approached the film ministry team for help. As head of a large factory in a diverse city center, she wanted to share the gospel with her employees, many of whom are women. With the assistance of a local film ministry team, Lydia held a showing of *Magdalena: Released From Shame* for more than 50 people. After the film, 17 women and two men prayed to receive Christ! "Now we have every Wednesday a Bible group for these people." Many of the factory workers are foreigners living in the area and feel a sense of hardship and alienation. This film helped create a sense of community and belonging for them: "They felt the people paid attention to them," confirmed one ministry worker. As a result of Lydia's initiative, "Every week, they show *Magdalena* in this area. So it is our joy. Thank you."

*names have been changed

Thank you for helping to make these things possible through your support of our work with The JESUS Film!

Tim & Lisa