

What is a “person of peace?”

Let me give you two answers, one from the first century and another from just a year or two ago.

We find a “person of peace” in the story of Paul and Silas in jail. You likely know the story — an earthquake devastated the jail, and the jailer was about to kill himself (because he was responsible for those jailed.) Paul and Silas called to him to not harm himself, and they told him instead to call upon Jesus and be saved, he and his whole household. The jailer opened the spiritual door for himself and his family to be saved. The jailer was a “person of peace” who helped others come to know salvation in Christ.

The other answer to the question “what is a person of peace?” came a few years ago not far from our house in the Philippines. One of my teammates invited friends together to learn how to start evangelistic Bible studies. After the training, each person was challenged to invite people to their house. In one case, a lady in her 60s or 70s (I’ll call her Mae) started attending a group. Mae was very excited to hear the various stories about people in the New Testament coming to faith in Jesus. She was drawn to come back each week, bringing with her people whom she wanted to hear the stories about people coming to faith. Ironically, Mae was very enthusiastic about having people hear these Bible narratives, but for a long time she did not place her own faith in Christ. But Mae brought many people to the weekly outreach Bible studies, and many professed faith in Christ. Mae was influential in her community, and God used her influence to bring saving faith to many.

Why this discussion of a “person of peace?”

Glad you asked! One of our main focuses here is to see a church in every “barangay” (village) in the whole country. There are still about 21,000 barangays without a single church. We, with others, have made steady progress toward this goal, but we have been looking for evermore-effective ways to start churches. We are finding that by using the influence of persons of peace like Mae, the starting (“planting”) of new churches is happening much more rapidly than in years past.

Our team in the northern Philippines has adapted ideas from the ministry of “T4T,” a simple but powerful way to mobilize churches to plant new churches through persons of peace, and the very important effort of multiplying workers (see 2 Timothy 2:2).

Grateful to be part of this,

Russ



*Targeting barangays for
new church plants.*