

Reflecting...

a mission report from
Recife, Brazil

Reconciling Two Sisters

We are a lot like Martha; involved in many things, agitated, anxious, stressed. During Jesus' visit to Martha's home she had her hands full, but couldn't see the unique opportunity she was given. She had good intentions, she wanted to serve the Master and receive his guests well. She was divided between making dinner and at the same time being with Jesus. Very quickly she got irritated with Mary who was simply sitting at Jesus' feet and listening.

We want to serve but sometimes we get

involved in too many things. We start to feel that we are carrying everything in our backs and nobody works as we do. Soon we become controlling and inflexible. We tell ourselves we don't have time to stop. Mary chose to stop. She stopped and separated the necessary time to listen with attention.

Can we do the same? Can we separate a time to be still, to quiet our minds from all the outside and inside noise? Can we take a break from perfectionism that can oppress us and those around us? Jesus

calls Martha's name twice, so as to call her attention. He is not impressed with our performance, He wants our love.

Like Mary we want that time, that intimacy with Jesus. Like Martha we have to get things done.

Instead of polarizing the two sisters can we reconcile them in our hearts?

Reconciling the two means to work like Martha with the affection and priorities of Mary.

We need to stop, we need to focus our attention for one moment in Jesus and listen to what He wants to say to us. Only after doing that can we go about our daily tasks. Only after that will we do things for the right reasons.

A small group of ladies from our church decided to stop everything and get together every other Saturday for one hour of prayer for our children and for all of the youth of our congregation. We also have a commitment to stop everyday for fifteen minutes for the same purpose.

I am already seeing changes through the power that there is in prayer. 📖



Mothers praying together for their children and for all of the church's youth

*Let love and
faithfulness never
leave you, bind
them around your
neck, write them
on the tablet of
your heart.*

— Prov. 3³

Growing together

One of the things I enjoy doing is being around our teen girls. It is a blessing seeing how much they have grown spiritually and in love for each other. This group is the fruit of the dedication of an AIM worker, Larissa Wise. She spent time with these girls, thought them and encouraged them. And God blessed her efforts. Larissa has been gone back to the US but the group continues to meet every Saturday afternoon for Bible study and fellowship.

Recently we studied together the book of Esther and the

book of James.

I like the spirit in these girls they are always eager to help with anything they can. They help teaching in the nursery every Sunday. They recently helped me a lot with the many

activities of our Teen Camp.

I think it is very important to pay attention to them and help them develop spiritually as they will soon become the wives and mothers of our church. 📖



Getting together for Bible study and relationships