



Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Acts 8:4

## Holy Abandonment

by Art Brown, Pastoral Care for Missionaries in Africa

Some time ago, Sylvia and I were in a creative access country and were blessed to attend the closing ceremony of a pastors' workshop. My mind could hardly take in what I was experiencing. In a few hours most of the pastors would return to areas where they might easily lose their lives. Yet, they were not only determined but clearly happy.

Like you, I assume a certain level of personal security. It's my right – I assume – to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I'm very grateful for those blessings. The men before me were living in a totally different world. Of course they would prefer to have such personal privilege. Yet, somehow – without those privileges – they were experiencing a holy abandon and a joy we North Americans don't begin to understand.

That memory reminds me of another experience. I remember sitting in the office of a national leader who told how God was blessing outreach to Muslims in his area. There was a new openness to the gospel, with even the imams (Muslim spiritual leaders) interested in seeing *The Jesus Film*. He told of sharing the gospel with a Muslim friend. The next time they were together, he discovered his friend had said "yes" to Jesus.

"Do you know what this commitment may mean to you?" he asked.

"Yes," his friend said. "I was willing to die for the wrong. I must be willing to die for truth."

How might our world be different if we lived with that kind of holy abandonment to God's loving call?



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