

## Healing for the Abused

In the Middle East, it is difficult for women and girls who have been physically, mentally or sexually abused to deal with their experiences and the pain they carry as a result. N and M, wives of Impact Middle East leaders in Egypt, have bravely stepped forward with a plan to help. They, along with a female doctor, counselor, and other team members, have been meeting with women and girls in rural villages. They have been building relationships and creating an atmosphere where participants are comfortable discussing topics like abuse. These meetings began in March 2018, and already team members are seeing God bring healing.

*A girl's mother spoke to her with hurtful, cruel words. The girl learned from the meetings that when someone has hurt you, you face that person and tell them the effect of their actions. The girl talked to her mother with courage and respect. Her mother was sorry and promised to change.*

*A girl's young relative leered at her suggestively. Learning how to best deal with the situation, the girl went to her relative and told him to stop looking at her like that. If he did not stop, she would tell his father and mother. The young man was afraid and promised he would never do this again.*

*Two women who attended the meetings had been sexually abused when they were young. They could not forgive themselves. The doctor helped them to see that what had happened was not their faults. Team members prayed and cried with the two women, who were greatly comforted.*

*A pastor's wife had been deeply hurt by words spoken to her. She did not know how to handle this treatment. She stopped eating and was eventually hospitalized. Because she told no one what had happened, no one could help her. The wife came to one of the meetings organized by N and M and found the courage to share openly with the doctor. She experienced healing from the emotional pain she had borne.*

Impact Middle East leaders have been greatly encouraged by the reactions of the women and girls who have attended the meetings. Please continue to pray for the leaders to have wisdom and the participants to find the healing and help God desires for them.