

Hello,

Bella and I would like to ask you to pray for a situation in our village. We left the village a few days ago for a short break here in town. The day before we left one of the men from the church came and talked with me. He told me that while his wife was out working in the jungle, another man from our church threatened her and forced himself on her. I was told that this has now happened several times. Since it was the day before we were leaving, I suggested that he talk to the leaders of the church to work through this. He was very adamant that he couldn't do this. Everything in our village runs along family lines. Families will support each other even when they are in the wrong. This situation has the potential to completely blow the church to bits. Bella and I have never worked through a situation like this before. Please be praying that the Lord will work in all our hearts. The man doing the raping goes to church, but I don't believe he knows the Lord. The woman being raped and her husband function as deacons in the church. We would ask you to pray that the ones who DO know the Lord will be guided by the Spirit and not just mindlessly support their family member.

We are very much out of our depth trying to handle this. For us that is a good place to be. In truth we are always out of our depth, but sometimes we don't realize it.

Before we came out to town, I was sworn to secrecy by the husband. I did tell the church leaders that there is a very serious situation in the church that will need to be handled. They said they hadn't heard anything, which is also unusual. Please pray that the Lord would be glorified in the handling of this. And pray that He would work in hearts to draw folks to Himself, both those who know Him and those who don't.

Thanks

Paul Gervasi