

## Immigrant Women’s Circle Presents “Story of the Bent Over Woman Reflection”

Despite the critical situation that our nation is experiencing, hope does not fade. **The Circle of Support Mujeres Bajo la Protección de Dios (Women Under the Protection of God)** is a hope for Strangers No Longer. This Circle is the first formed of immigrant women and it is growing.



These women experience the Circle as a space where they can share and pray their lived experiences. This is also a space for them to be in solidarity, not only among themselves, but with any other families that are in need. It can be said that the Circle is a means of fostering their faith in God and, at the same time, their faith makes them sensitive to the sufferings and needs that many immigrant women experience day after day.

Therefore, with the desire that more women can count on a space like this, Mujeres Bajo la Protección de Dios Circle had a reflection on the story of the Bent-Over Woman (Luke 13:10-17). This reflection was led by some of the women of the Circle who responsibly prepared the session. As an aid to this reflection, the women had the experience of being bent over for three minutes. The sharing of this experience was very rich and helped them to feel connected with the woman of the biblical story. The immigration status of these women is a big burden that has bent them over. Also, lack of self-esteem and being away of their families makes them feel sad and anguished. Other burdens such as racism, machismo, pride, and illness were mentioned. All these situations contribute to their feeling bent over.

However, when these women were asked how we can help Jesus to unbend ourselves and others, faith in God was relevant. But for them, faith in God requires to do whatever they can do so they can live and feel better. Each Circle member had made a commitment to bring at least one more woman to this reflection so more Circles of Support of immigrant women can be formed, and the attendance to this reflection was remarkable: 33 women joined the zoom meeting from different cities. There were women from Ann Arbor, Detroit, Melvindale, Monroe, Pontiac, Wayne, and Ypsilanti.

There is no doubt that the pandemic has affected the health and economy of this country, but it can be said that due to its effects on the most vulnerable people, this Circle of Support came into existence and more can be formed to alleviate women's suffering.

**This is why, despite the crisis, hope does not fade.**

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