Selmira was just a young teen when she married. Most Napo girls marry even younger, but she asked to wait until after she finished primary school. In the course of Selmira’s marriage, she and her husband have buried 11 children and suffered four miscarriages. Once, when her nine-year-old boy died from a snakebite, she was so traumatized that she ran away.

Selmira believes that before she ever gave her life to Christ, God spoke to her in dreams. She dreamed there was a large tree laid across a river as a bridge, and she was trying to cross it. She was wobbling dangerously when a man appeared wearing a bright white robe. He handed her a Bible, and when she nearly fell, he took her right hand and led her across the river to safety.

Shortly after that, she had another dream in which she was climbing a tall ladder to heaven. When she reached heaven, it was completely silent, and there were many houses, but they were all empty. A man appeared and asked her, “Why did you come here? You have to go take care of your children and serve God’s Son.”

After those dreams, Selmira started searching for a Bible she could understand.

She heard about a workshop on sharing Bible stories in oral cultures like hers. There she met a Wycliffe translator named Christa. Selmira invited Christa and her ministry partner, Maritsa, to her village to help her learn more Bible stories. The more she learned about Scripture, the less she drank alcohol and the more she felt love and compassion for the people around her.

Since Selmira joined the Napo Quechua translation project with Christa, Maritsa and the other translators, she has connected with Christians who’ve become part of her new life.

As a translator, Selmira has excelled quickly even though it’s hard work. “It’s wearing out my brain,” she said with a smile. Her peers look to her for guidance when studying Bible stories because they trust her judgment and understanding. She’s one of the only translators who has never missed a workshop in the past four years.

When Selmira’s not translating, she loves to cook and read to her grandkids. And she loves to sing about Jesus. Her favorite song is called “Jesus is Powerful.” It’s about how Jesus heals the sick and gives new life. “Only Jesus can do this,” she said.

When she learned the story of Abraham and how he desired children, she remembered God’s promise to provide descendants as numerous as the stars. She often thinks of the 11 children she buried. But today she has 11 grandchildren to teach about God’s promises.

“Abraham followed God’s calling,” she said. “People ask why I go to workshops and follow these sisters. I tell them it’s God’s calling, and I’m following.”
A PLACE AT THE TABLE

As followers of Jesus, we each have a place at his table. But how can he use our unique skills and abilities to help others know that they have been invited into his kingdom?

Our devotional, “A Place at the Table,” explores what it looks like to sit at God’s table and to invite others to join! Get your free copy at wycliffe.org/table.

A GLIMPSE INTO PERU

As the third largest country in South America, Peru is considered one of the most diverse countries — in both climate and people! Though it’s close to the equator, Peru actually has marine and desert climates thanks to the Andes Mountains and marine currents from the Pacific Ocean.

Peru is not only diverse in its climate but people as well. Many ethnic groups coexist in Peru. Though Catholicism is the predominant religion in Peru, most people actually practice syncretism (the combination of multiple belief systems).

But translation work in languages like Selmira’s is helping people find hope and healing through the power of God’s Word! Praise God for his continued work in Peru.

You can make a difference in countries like Peru by joining our prayer team. Sign up at wycliffe.org/prayer to receive prayer emails on different countries, people groups and more to help you pray about what God is doing around the world.

WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE WORLD

» Praise God for the impact that Scripture is having on the hearts and lives of people in Peru!

» There are still people groups in Peru waiting for Scripture. Pray that Bible translation would start in the languages still needing it.

» Ask God to continue to capture Peruvian hearts for his glory.