

INfocus

May 2014

180 DEGREES

Kara* didn't like the Bible.

As a kid, she lived with a missionary woman who helped provide education and teach life skills to kids who otherwise wouldn't have attended school. During those years, she heard God's Word many times, but she didn't want to obey it. She had her own way of doing things.

As Kara got older, she became addicted to alcohol and gambling. She had ten children, but because of her addictions, she didn't care for them or insist that they attend school. She also didn't work; instead, she expected her sons to support her and help take care of the younger children. She often fought with her neighbors, and people had a hard time interacting with her.

Finally, at the age of forty-seven, everything changed.

After all those years of ignoring what the Bible said, something was suddenly different. Kara's heart softened and she began to let God's Word speak to her, transforming her life. She quit drinking and gambling, and she started caring for her children. Her life took a 180-degree turn—nothing was the same!

Kara also began to get more involved in education. The missionary woman she once lived with sent her to a literacy training workshop in the city so she could help develop curriculum and materials in her language. At

first she wasn't very interested, but then Kara realized how much these materials could help her and her children become more educated.

It was as if a light had switched on. Kara began to help create the curriculum by recording songs during the workshop. When she returned to her community, Kara began to share her excitement with other parents, telling them about all she had learned in the training and just how important education is for their children and the rest of the community!

Kara truly believes none of this could have happened without the Holy Spirit moving in her life. Because of Him, she's stepped away from her old habits and is living for Christ!

As 2 Corinthians 5:15 and 17 say, "He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ... This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (NLT).

Lives are changed when people understand the truth of the Gospel. Kara experienced the freedom from sin that is found when a life is truly surrendered to God. Her life is being transformed, and the process is not done yet!

*A pseudonym



DEAR FRIENDS,

Guido, a ten-year-old Matsés boy from the Peruvian rainforest, was visiting the big city of Lima for the first time. After a long and arduous trip—three days in a small boat, seven days in a larger riverboat, and an hour and a half by plane—he stood before a roomful of Wycliffe USA Board members and

executive leaders that included my wife (Dallas) and me.

Dressed in crisp new blue jeans and shiny white tennis shoes, he took the mic and began to recite from memory, and without hesitation, passages from Matthew and Luke in his mother tongue.

Verse after verse after verse, he went on and on. The audience was awestruck! When asked where he learned to do this, he said he learned it from his parents and his grandfather, who are all believers. Guido is a third generation Christian, and these words from the Bible transformed his family and his community.

After years of faithful work by translators and Scripture use workers, many Matsés people have grown to love Scripture—and its Author. If you'd like to read more about this and other great stories, you can follow our blog at blog.wycliffe.org.

Warmly in Christ,

Bob Creson

Bob Creson
President, CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

WORLD *focus*

NEVER LOSE IT—BURKINA FASO

Tandia Nicolas works as a literacy coordinator for the Sissala Old Testament, which will bring the complete Bible to the people in the language of their heart. "I always consider the work of God as an honor from God," Tandia said, "and we have to support it. The impact of the translation is already visible and evident. To have the entire Bible is our big desire. Even if we lost everything, we can never lose the Word. It is our strength and it saves us in our difficult times. We engage to motivate the Church so that an action may be taken."

PRAYER—DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

When Stewart first entered the village where he was to join the Logo Bible translation team, an old man who had been one of the first Logo Christians walked up and said, "I have prayed for you every day of your life." Stewart was shocked. "To meet somebody who had been praying for me at least thirty-five years before I was born—I am staggered by God's provision, and by the importance of the call to translate Scripture," Stewart said. The translation is scheduled to be completed this year!

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