

# The Aché People

## Motivation to Translate James

“Please—come and help us! Yolanda is very sick. Would you please come?” Tomasa, the wife of one of the Aché translators, stood at the Arroyo Bandera classroom-building site pleading with project director Victor, her eyes earnest.

When they arrived, Victor and his companions found the 15-year-old girl surrounded by four Aché men, holding her arms and legs. Yolanda writhed, sobbing and whining, as if in pain. Another visiting pastor prayed in a major language of the area, Guaraní, rebuking the evil spirits.

When the girl’s condition didn’t improve, the visiting pastor asked for a glass of water. He told the waiting crowd he’d pray over the water and that God would help their weak faith. He prayed over the water and then started rubbing it on the girl. But still no change occurred.

Victor watched these proceedings with confusion and anxiety, praying that the Lord would give him a word from the Bible to help in the situation. Then he remembered James 5:14-15:

*Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

Victor addressed the crowd, sharing these verses in Guaraní and translating them orally into Aché. Then he prayed in Aché, saying, “If there’s an evil spirit in this girl, I tie it up in the name of Jesus, and now I declare you free, girl, to take control of yourself. And taking control of yourself, I command you, girl, to tell me your name!”

Everyone was praying together, as the Scriptures had instructed. When the prayers quieted, the girl pronounced her name very weakly and quietly: “Yolanda.”

Victor reported, “After a few seconds of total silence, having been surprised by the Lord, everybody began to praise Him. So I called her mom and delivered Yolanda into her hands, telling the girl that her parents are in charge of her spiritual protection and growth.

“So after that experience, the translation team decided to translate James as soon as possible.”



- Location: Paraguay
  - Number of Speakers: 1,500
  - Project Goal: New Testament plus Old Testament portions, JESUS film
  - Year Project Began: 2004
  - Expected Completion Date: 2015
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- Thank the Lord for answered prayer for Yolanda. Please pray for her protection and spiritual growth.
  - Praise God for His Word. Pray for the Aché team as they prepare to translate the very practical book of James.



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### Getting Out the Good News

The translators are pleased that they've added Matthew to the completed Gospels package in Aché and sent it to the partner organization in Brazil for printing. Now they're preparing to dedicate all four Gospels in a single volume entitled *Chengyppychã Djawu Gatu* in coming months. The partner organization is seeking funding to print the books.

### More Literacy Classrooms on the Way

The team is seeking a permit to build more literacy classrooms for new mother-tongue readers. This time the school facilities will be in the Aché towns of Ypetimi and Cerro Moroti. The team has submitted paperwork to have the project approved. They also need to fulfill some requirements before the officials can sign off on the project.

### Other Prayer Items

- **Victor's wife Cristina and team member Marlice will be busy with literacy work in coming months. They'd appreciate your prayers regarding logistics and details.**
- **Pray for Victor and Cristina's daughter Rocío, who'll be in Chile until August for training with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). They're concerned for her safety in light of recent earthquakes.**

- **Praise God that the four Gospels are ready to print in Aché. Ask Him to use them powerfully among the Aché people.**
- **Pray that there'll be no further delay in printing the Gospels. Please pray that the Lord will provide the necessary funding to publish them.**
- **Pray that the team will be able to help with whatever is lacking to get these literacy classrooms up and running.**
- **Pray for soft hearts among those responsible for approving the construction of these classrooms. Ask God to open doors for this project to proceed.**

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