

## *"I have a verse for you"*

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7 (NASB)*

We were sitting on the dirt floor of a grass-roofed hut visiting with a 70-year-old chief. In the midst of our laughing and joking he said, "I have a verse from the Koran for you." I had never heard a Muslim say this before.

He read the words carefully in Arabic. Then, with great pride, he told how he had studied the Koran for most of his life and could now read it. Commending him on his reading, I asked, "What does the verse mean?" He replied, "I only read it; I cannot translate it."

I was shocked. How could he give me a verse that he did not understand and that I could not possibly understand? What would be the benefit of reading something without understanding it? I read Scripture to understand God and His will for my life. How could someone work that hard to learn Arabic without understanding it?

After this encounter, God led me to handwrite Genesis 3 in Pular (poo-LAR), but using the Arabic alphabet. I gave it to the chief. He insisted that we read it then. As we read, I had to stop him frequently to talk about the meaning and to be sure he was not just pronouncing the words.

Later, I went back with the express intent to give him the rest of Genesis. I did not have to offer, for he said, "What you left was not enough; it was only part of the story." I was glad to give him more of God's Word.

Am I as hungry for the Word as this man?

—ROBERT AND RHONDA, WEST AFRICA

*Falbez*, YOUR VERY WORDS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ME THAT I MIGHT KNOW YOU AND YOUR WILL FOR MY LIFE. LET ME NEVER READ YOUR WORD AS ROUTINE AND WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, BUT ALLOW IT TO PENETRATE MY HEART AND CHANGE ME. *Amen.*