

AM I CRAZY?

FRANCE

by C & F

When I first met César, I interpreted his easy going demeanor as meaning that he had led an easy life. Nothing could be further from the truth.

At fourteen, César lost his parents to a fatal illness, and was sent off to live with an uncle he barely knew. His childhood was shattered. Growing up, he doubted the existence of God, but was intrigued by Buddhism. He learned about karma and reincarnation, and thought it would be wonderful to reincarnate into the same family as his dead parents. He continued to attend a Buddhist temple, even after being adopted by a family in France and moving to Paris. Then, in Paris, he met some Christians. His life soon became a morass of contradictions, as he studied Buddhism, attended church and frequented the Parisian clubs at night. It all came to a climax one day while he was helping a friend paint an apartment.



Out of nowhere, César felt invisible fire and light fall upon him, filling him with fear and a sudden desire to worship Jesus. Was he going crazy? In a panic, he phoned one of his Christian friends. "That is the Holy Spirit!" his friend told him.

"That day my life was forever changed," César says. By then he was married, a father of three and working in an upscale restaurant in Paris. His passion for Jesus led him to become a lay leader for the youth group at a local church. But he wanted more. One Friday he saw us at the open market where we do weekly Bible distribution and evangelism, and excitedly asked to join us. His job as a waiter kept him from coming regularly, as his employer pressured him to put in more hours and take on more responsibilities over the weekends. When César instead asked for Sundays off, and to work fewer hours, his employer angrily re-scheduled him to work almost every Sunday. It became intolerable.

"I knew I had to choose," César recalls. "I decided that opening my own business would allow me to dedicate more time to ministry." It was a risk, as his wife was pregnant with their third child. But in faith, César quit his job and began taking classes with associations that help new entrepreneurs plan their business ventures.

"Am I crazy?" he asks, smiling widely. "Perhaps! But I must follow Jesus."

THAZIN

THAILAND

A young woman's testimony, as told to Louise Sinclair-Peters

The last time I saw my mom, she tried to sell me. The man was old, and disgusting, and I took off running. I never went back.

I spent years living on the streets of Bangkok and Mae Sot. As a Burmese living in Thailand, I was a non-person: no identification from either country, no rights at all. I learned fast to trust no one, and to always be ready to defend myself. Perhaps I should thank my mother. In some ways, the violence and abuse in our home when I was a child prepared me for this life.

I could take a man down with a single punch if he tried to hurt me.

There was a man who got close to me, once. I even let him be my boyfriend. Then he ended up in jail, and I was alone again. When he finally got out, he told me a strange story.

"In my cell, there was a man named Danai," my boyfriend told me. "They arrested him because his visa was expired. He was different from the other prisoners. He kept reading a book; he called it a Bible."

No one ever loved me like that. I thought, this Jesus must be God!

"What does that even mean?" I asked my boyfriend, but he just shrugged. It sounded strange, and I wanted to know more. So we found Danai, his ex-cellmate, who started talking about the love of Christ, who died to rescue us. No one ever loved me like that. I thought, this Jesus must be God! And I decided to put my faith in Jesus.

My boyfriend was very angry. "You can't do that!" he yelled. "We are Buddhist, and our country is Buddhist!" He is big, and he tried to threaten me. "If you believe in Jesus, I'm leaving you!"

But I wasn't afraid of his anger. I could have punched him, but instead I just said, "Fine with me. Goodbye! I am following Jesus now!"

Later, Danai took me to a man called Pastor Isaiah. He is very kind and loving; like Jesus, I think. He has brought me to live with foreigners named Dave and Louise, in Yangon. They are Christians, too, and every day they teach me more. I love to help them with cooking and cleaning the house, and I am learning to read and write and do mathematics. They say I am like their daughter, and it feels strange, because I never had this kind of love from my own parents.

Sometimes I am so happy, I just have to sing. They say that I have a beautiful voice. I did not know that.

Daily Prayer Guide

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Wendy Eros Japan	2 VR Ukraine	3 Ricky & Karen Huebert-Sanchez Thailand	4 S & D Restricted	5 Robert & Anne Thiessen Mexico	6 S & S Restricted	7 Melvin & Gudrun Warkentin Paraguay
8 M & R Restricted	9 Phil & Carol Bergen Burkina Faso	10 S & B Restricted	11 Rebecca Hiebert Thailand	12 J & F Restricted	13 Andy & Carmen Owen Thailand	14 Joanna Pharazyn Portugal
15 Johanna Neudorf Germany	16 Edd & Ingrid Russell Thailand	17 Doug & Deanna Hiebert Burundi	18 P & S Restricted	19 Joanna Chapa Peru	20 Jill Ramer Thailand	21 Sandra Plett Mexico
22 Robert & Marlene Baerg Mongolia	23 J & M Restricted	24 Sandra Fender Thailand	25 Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters Thailand	26 Stacy Kuhns Peru	27 C & F Restricted	28 Cynthia Friesen Thailand
29 Cory & Masami Giesbrecht Japan	30 Otto & Marjorie Ekk Portugal					