

From "Failure" to Standing Ovation...

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Can you imagine what it's like to be a young, female Christian writer in French-speaking Africa -- believing that God has called you to serve Him through your gifting -- studying hard to improve your craft -- while being told that such education will make you *"too proud to be a good and submitted wife?"*

That's the world of my young friend Ivanova Nono Fotso, 29, who lives in Yaoundé, Cameroon. She is second in a family of five girls. She lives with her father, a retired teacher who is now a Pastor, and two of her sisters.

After High School, Ivanova spent three years learning hotel and restaurant management but found she didn't

like working in hotels. So she used her skills to serve in a Christian guest house until finally she was convicted that her passion for reading and writing was a call. *"Many people told me it was a bad idea. I sometimes felt the same,"* she admits. *"I'm grateful to God that my father gave me his moral and financial support."*

It was when Ivanova went back to school

that those remarks began about her becoming an unsuitable wife. The criticism has increased since she wrote her first book and began to attend international seminars.

A couple times a year Ivanova gets into conversations where she has to defend herself for still being single. *"It seems that no matter how successful is my writing career, or my ministry, no matter how many people I share the Gospel with, since I'm not married and don't have a child, I'm a failure for them."*

In 2012, Ivanova had the opportunity to take part in the



Ivanova with me (on left) and the teaching staff at our COMIX35 seminar in Yaoundé, Cameroon, back in 2012



COMIX35 training in Cameroon. She says the seminar *“showed me how serious and important are comics in the writing ministry; how it can help to spread the Gospel. I learned how to write a script.”*

This year she was back again for our training in Abidjan, Ivory Coast -- but in front of the class. Her presentation on how she writes from her own experiences received a Standing O at the end. *“It was a revelation to me because I realized that I like to teach.”*

Afterward, other attendees approached Ivanova with their own stories. *“I realized how much it is important for people to hear about other people’s experiences and to share their own stories,”* she explains. *“I remembered how writing has been an important step in the healing process in my life.”* So she has launched a project she calls *“Operation Write to Recover.”*



YOU supported Ivanova & 28 seminar students from Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Madagascar, and the Congo.

She concludes: *“I believe God called me to serve Him through writing and that He’ll lead me in His ways.”*

Praise God with us. Your continued investment in COMIX35 is supporting Ivanova and creators like her as they use their talents to reach their own countries with the Gospel.



YOU supported Ivanova as she coached other students.

Please make a year-end donation here in December. Your gift will help us continue to reach French-speaking Africans, the Québécois of Canada, US Prison Inmates, Native Americans, and many others through the visual medium of comics. **Please return your tax-deductible gift in the enclosed envelope or make an online donation at www.comix35.com/Help.html.**

You’re a valuable part of this ministry. We need YOU!

Thank you for your financial partnership with us in HIM.

Every Blessing,

Nate Butler, President/CEO, COMIX35



YOU supported Ivanova as she taught.

P.S. – Your generous gift will put more Life-Changing Literature into the hands of Africans, Native Americans, and US Prison Inmates. Thank YOU for your support!