

Community Christian School
Fort Dodge, Iowa

Dear Frank Peretti,

“Prayer changes things.” The statement is hung throughout my home—above the sink, the front entryway, and on the wall next to the kitchen table. These are all places I trot past busily everyday, never really acknowledging the signs’ existence. When my life seems to be flowing smoothly, those words don’t snatch attention like they would if my favorite song were being played on the radio. Lila, in your thrilling book *the Deadly Curse of Toco-Rey*, at first only prayed when she was in need—when she was either going to die of a detonating bomb or be attacked by two crazed maniacs. When I get caught in a rut, need healing, or have simply misplaced my favorite necklace, then I run to God for help.

Your book sparked my interest, not only because the expressive words made the story come alive, but because I struggle with praying regularly, just as Lila did. God loves me so much, and I can’t even take two minutes to thank God and count my blessings. If my heart is broken or burdens weigh me down and that’s the only time I talk to my Almighty God, then something is wrong! Lila knew it, and I now know that prayer is a powerful weapon against the schemes of the devil and should not be forgotten.

Recently, a wild tornado was headed for the town my family was visiting. We were in the high school building at the time—exhibiting at a craft show. The sirens blew, and we were told not to leave the building and rush directly to the girls’ locker room. It was frightening for the other twenty people jammed into the room, but I felt a spirit of calmness fall upon me like a warm blanket. I prayed with reassurance that everything would turn out okay. Like Lila, I prayed in a time of need and had confidence that God would carry out His plan.

When Lila was wandering around the dark jungle scared, confused, and without a trace of her loving father; Lila dropped to her knees, I pray for myself now that God will strengthen my faith by putting obstacles in my way. I need to rely on God and prayer, not myself.

I may never get lost in the wild jungles of Central America or wander anywhere near a deadly bomb like Lila did, but I still intend to pray with integrity. The last chapter challenged me to weave more prayer into my quilt of life so it will be stronger than before.

Your book affected how I prayed and when I prayed. I have been encouraged to pray every night before bed and in the morning before school and see how that changes my attitude throughout the day. Now, I am reassured that prayer turns situations around for our benefit. Lila held onto the power of prayer and so will I!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Dick