

# BECKY'S BULLETIN

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## WHAT TAKES SO LONG?

I can't believe that seven months ago we had nearly completed the team review of the entire New Testament. I thought that by now we would have turned it in for publication. What takes so long? It turned out that for various reasons we just couldn't get the team together to finish it up. However, we have finished it, and during the time the team was apart we did a rough recording of everything as a further check for naturalness and accuracy. Then each member listened to it and we made more changes based on that. We have also checked the format and spelling. We check paragraphing and punctuation based on a popular Spanish version to make sure any differences are justified by the differences between Zapotec and Spanish grammar. We have done most of that checking and will probably recheck everything before we hand it in to an editor who will check it again. When we get it back from the editor we will make the necessary changes and hand it in to be checked again, and then again!



We will soon begin making a professional recording of both the NT and Psalms which will provide another

check for naturalness and anything else that may have slipped by all the previous checks. Then we should be ready to send the computer files to typesetting!

Checking the spelling is a big job since we have to create our own spell check as we work through it. This is further complicated by the fact that Zapotec is an agglutinative language. This means a single word may be made up of many parts and therefore a word that would appear once in a dictionary may have many forms. In the case of verbs there are literally hundreds of forms.

For example, to check the spelling for the noun **na'** meaning *hand*, all of these forms have to be included in the spell check.

**na'** *my hand(s)*  
**na'nto'** *our hands (not yours)*  
**na'cho** *our hands (including yours)*  
**noo** *your hand(s)*  
**na'le** *your hands (all of you)*  
**nee** *his/her hand (respect)*  
**na'gake'** *their hands (respect)*  
**na'b'** *his/her hand (familiar)*  
**na'gakb'** *their hands (familiar)*  
**na'b** *its "hand" (animal)*  
**na'gakb** *their "hands" (animal)*  
**na'yin** *its hand (thing)*  
**na'gakin** *their hands (thing)*

In addition, each of these forms frequently occurs with an ending roughly equivalent to *this, that, these, and those*:

**neeni** *this hand of his/hers*  
**neeki** *these hands of his/hers*  
**neena'** *that hand of his/hers*  
**neeka'** *those hands of his/hers*

This means the word *hand* may appear in at least 52 forms that the spell checker has to recognize. I say at least, because there are other things that may be added on as well.

This is how our finished text looks.

\p  
\v 23 Na'ch che' Juanna' legake':  
\p —Isa'aza', beena' wdixjee daa goll Chioza'ne' kani'yi, chan' wnie' kana' wne': "To ben' gosyee zillj latja' gana' bibi chashj chleb, na' ine': Li se kwas kwenche wzenagle che Xanchona' kat zee."  
\p  
\v 24 Na' ben'ka' bse!' fariseoka'  
\v 25 wnabgakile'ne':

John1:21-25

- ✓ Please pray especially that the readers do a really good job on the recording so that people will want to listen to it repeatedly.
- ✓ Pray also for a group that is trying to establish a **new** regional alphabet for Zapotec. The decisions they make could have an effect on the use of our materials.

I apologize for waiting so long between reports. Since I have been spending most of my time in the village, communication is more of a challenge. Thank you for praying and giving so that this work can continue. I am so privileged to be part of the team we form to bring God's Word to the Zapotecs.

Becky

## II Corinthians 9:8

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