

# BECKY'S BULLETIN

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2006

## Biennial Conference

Every two years our group here in Mexico has a conference where we discuss issues related to our work, elect our administrators and executive committee, have a time of spiritual reflection and refreshment and have an opportunity to hear from one another concerning the work each of us is involved in. Our next conference will take place, Lord willing, this October. In preparation for this each of us prepares a written report covering the highlights of the last two years. As I was preparing my report this week I was very encouraged to see the progress our Yaganiza Zapotec team has made and would like to share some of this with you. You may remember the mention of some of these activities in previous letters, but this is more of an overview of the past two years.

## Promoting Reading

I praise the Lord for a good team of Zapotec people to work with during this past biennium. As a result of that, and the Lord's help in every other way, we were able to accomplish quite a bit, particularly in the areas of translation and literacy. In an effort to make the written word available to people and to encourage reading we have produced quite a number of key chains, posters, embroidery patterns, T-shirts, and bookmarks with Zapotec texts on them. We also published the gospel of Luke and a real highlight for me was the fact that both evangelical churches in Yaganiza have made use of that book. In one church they held classes to read through the entire book and answer questions on each chapter, and they continue to read from it during at least one of their 5 weekly services. In the other church, they read through the entire book as a congregation and used it as the basis for the teaching during that period. I only printed 50 copies but all the copies sold were actually read! Reading in Zapotec is still difficult for some and Floriberto has written up a series of reading lessons which he is currently testing with a group of children.

## Using Audio and Video

Although we want to promote reading, we also produce audio and video presentations to back up the written materials and to make them available to non-readers. We have 2 CD's of hymns from our hymnal and plan to record all of the written hymns. We also now have a DVD with photos of the village and two different songs about the village which accompany them. Each song has two formats, one of which shows the words to the songs on the screen as they are sung to give people reading practice, particularly those who don't yet have an interest in the Scriptures. Last summer we finally received our Zapotec Luke video and were able to show this 4 hour film in 3 different towns. A number of people have purchased their own copy, including Zapotecs who live in other parts of Mexico and the U.S. Just last month we completed a multi-voice version of Genesis which I pray will create more interest in the Word in Zapotec. A few years ago we had just a few chapters of Genesis translated and I read them to a neighbor. At the time she asked me, "when will this be on a cassette so that I can listen to it?" At last, the whole book is translated, checked and recorded. I am really looking forward to her response to the recording!

## Translation Progress

This biennium we were able to get a total of 108 chapters of Scripture consultant checked (Genesis, Mark and lots of short epistles), to revise some NT books not yet consultant checked, and to translate all of the Psalms. I attended a workshop on the Psalms with co-translator Pedro and one on the book of Hebrews with Floriberto. Both of these workshops were good training in translation skills for these men and gave us expert help as we translated. Some of the Psalms are quite difficult to translate. The Hebrews workshop had a huge impact on Flor's spiritual life and I am especially thankful for that.

Lord willing, by the end of the 2006-2008 biennium we will have the Psalms and the rest of the NT consultant checked and revised. Please pray that the Zapotec speakers needed to complete this task will be available. Only the Lord knows what the next two years hold and only with His help will we be able to meet these goals. If He wants it to be done, it will be done.

## Plans Needing Prayer

- This month and part of October we plan to check over the back-translation of many of the Psalms and to submit some of them for checking.
- Unless the current unrest in Oaxaca prevents it from being held, we will have our conference from October 17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.
- My friend Jan and I are currently living in the home of a couple on furlough who hope to return in November. So the end of October we will be moving to another apartment here in Mitla before I return to Yaganiza. This will be our 2nd move since June. Lord willing, we will be able to stay in the new place long-term.
- From mid-Nov. through mid-Dec. two of my Zapotec co-translators and I will be attending a workshop on I Corinthians. We have it translated but this will be an opportunity for more training for the men and to revise that book again before I submit it to a consultant for checking.

Thank you so much for standing with us in this project. May the Lord bless you for it.

## *II Corinthians 9:8*

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Boys dressed for a folkdance enjoy a snack, Jul. 05, appear in our village DVD.



A visit to Good Shepherd Nursery School during furlough Jan. 06



Samuel (left) and Floriberto attending a workshop on literature use and promotion, Feb. 06



Zapotec technicians who recorded our Genesis, Aug. 06



Enjoying my first meal of fried cicadas with a bowl of black beans Apr. 06. They are really very good! The larger ones, males, have a hollow cavity that enables them to make that loud noise.



Cooking the leaves of the maguey plant (Mar. 06) is part extracting the fibers in order to make twine. This process, which is now done by only one or two old people, is also featured in our DVD. This man is 84.