

**Felix Ventura Mazatec Scripture Use Project Report**  
**First Quarter FY 2007 – October, November, December 2006**  
**Making it possible for Mazatec people to hear God's word in their own language**

*Major project outcomes (what we visualize in the future):*

- a) **Scripture translated into Mazatec and available to the people.**
  - b) **People using Scripture and other materials in reading classes and Bible study.**
  - c) **Pastors, teachers and political leaders promoting the use of these materials.**
  - d) **Increased capacity to teach, preach, and serve others in Mazatec.**
  - e) **Unplanned opportunities used well (things that God arranges along the way).**
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Dear supporters of this project,

When I wrote you three and a half weeks ago, I hadn't yet talked with Felix personally after his studies in Lima. I asked you to pray that God would shape our thinking together about next steps. God is doing that. Felix had been thinking and planning before we talked.

Felix and his wife Lupe and little Josaphat (ten months) have come to the translation center for a few weeks, where Felix and I can get in long hours of quality desk time away from village distractions. I've just written a general newsletter about our work on Genesis (that's project outcome a. above). I specifically want to inform you who are more directly involved in Felix's life regarding the impact of his studies in Peru (a major investment of time and intellectual effort—project outcomes d. and e.). First, he thinks more reflectively and in a broader context about everything our conversation touches on. He is very intelligent, but his previous school experience had been to the level of junior high and six months of Bible school,. The discipline of a year's study at university level has made him more exact and reflective. He ponders things in the way that university level teachers and writing university level papers make you think.

Second, he has an even stronger awareness of the very unusual competence and therefore the responsibility he has among his people. Others in his society are recognizing his ability and his motivation to serve. One pastor has asked him to teach his people to read Scripture, and the district head of the bilingual teachers has scheduled a time for him to teach the technical coordinators of the district about the sounds of their language (outcomes b. and c.). Promotion of Mazatec literacy in the schools is part of making Scripture available to Mazatec society.

Felix's current activities, which I will keep reporting to you, are:

- Revise Froylan's earlier translation of Genesis (and more of the OT in the future) when he and I are able to work together. The time together is an intensive course in exegesis.
- Prepare the Mazatec script for the Luke video. (I will prepare booklets to match the video episodes so that the video can be used also as a basis of Bible study.)
- Relate to pastors with the goal of teaching people to read Mazatec, leading into Bible study discussion groups.
- Relate to teachers as an informal consultant. Although it is their assignment from the government to teach reading and writing, Felix has a competence and focus they do not.

You are doing a good work in supporting this project. Thank you.

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