

Dear people who support this project,  
Here's a report on Felix's (and my) activities for the past quarter, in text format below and as a word document attached.  
And I don't know why I'm getting all these boxes at the top of this message. Sorry. I'm not as good on computers as Felix is.  
Blessings, Terry

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Felix Ventura Mazatec Scripture Use Project Report</b> <b>Second Quarter FY 2007 – January, February, March 2007</b> <b>Making it possible for Mazatec people to hear God's word in their own language</b></p>
--

*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).**
- .....

Dear supporters of this project,

**Outcome a above.** Felix and Lupe spent much of this quarter with Judy and me at the group translation center in Mitla, Oaxaca. There are small apartments and study facilities available there. Time away from the village means freedom to spend lots of time at the desk together.

Felix's university course in Lima, Peru, has greatly increased his ability to analyze specific words and the dynamics of conversation. Together we revised chapters twenty-five to thirty of Froylan's translation of Genesis. We thought hard about blind Isaac's exchange first with Jacob (who was deceiving him to get God's blessing), and then his exchange with Esau (who was in agony over losing the blessing). We thought about Isaac's dawning awareness of what he had done. He wanted to bless the son he loved, even though God had told Rebekah the elder would serve the younger, the son she loved and taught to deceive his father. It's a story of high drama, dysfunctional family dynamics, and God blessing the one he had chosen. Now it's a story told in excellent Mazatec.

Image the scene of our work. Felix does all the editing. He has six windows open on his computer screen – the Mazatec text we're revising plus five Spanish translations to see how others have done it. On my computer screen I have the Hebrew text and two commentaries in English. Today's technology, and a narrative that touches every age and culture. Wonderful.

**Outcomes d and e above.** Others are also recognizing Felix's increased understanding of the nature of language and his ability to teach about language. The Mazatec district supervisor of bilingual education asked him to give a three day seminar on the sounds of various Mazatec dialects (actually distinct Mazatec languages). As many as 40 of the technical advisors and directors of local schools attended. Felix now knows a lot more than the teachers about sound systems and what's involved in teaching the letters that represent the sounds on paper. And maybe equally impressive -- he has the interpersonal skills to gain their confidence.

The Bible League in Mexico has developed a course called "Jesus in your language" which they teach in various villages where indigenous languages are spoken. The course is taught in Spanish but the focus is getting people involved in reading the Bible in their own languages. Felix was invited to help in a place called Tenango, where they speak a related Mazatec language

(which he also speaks). His role there was also to help people think about Mazatec language sounds.

You are doing a good work for the kingdom in supporting this man and this project. Thank you.

Terry Schram

PO Box 8394, Catalina AZ 85738 \*\*\* [terry\\_schram@sil.org](mailto:terry_schram@sil.org)