

July 26, 2007

Thanks heaps for praying about my presentation yesterday. It went well even though my Spanish wobbled initially because I was nervous. Best of all it seemed to encourage the very competent young man from Mexico City (the teacher) to speak up. It hadn't occurred to him before to talk about the risks of the internet. Today Terry is in the Mazatec village where we've lived and work-about 7 hours drive due north of Mitla. He is talking with various people out there about what kinds of strategies to use to make sure that the intellectual property rights of Mazatec authors and story tellers are protected. It is a really complex situation both practically and legally with viewpoints from a variety of perspectives operating.

We're wanting to publish very soon a group of texts in various genres with a glossary that was collected and edited by a Mazatec, now deceased. It's a nice book and beautifully illustrated. Some of the texts are traditional tales known by the whole community. A couple were recorded in the 1950s by a highly respected, prominent town mayor ('Presidente Municipal') who has been dead for at least 30 years. Some are anecdotes or dialogues about various aspects of Mazatec culture. Somehow, all these intellectual property rights need to be sorted out.

Would you please ask God to let Terry get into helpful conversations with the right people and then be able to fit that in with relevant legal opinions.

Thanks!