

Dear people who support Felix and Lupe with your prayers and finances,

Here's a report of project achievements for the past quarter, in plain text below and attached as a one page word document.

Greetings from Judy and me. We appreciate you very much. So do Felix and Lupe.

Terry

Felix Ventura – Mazatec Scripture Use Project Report
July, August, September 2007 (fourth quarter FY 2007)
Making it possible for Mazatec people to hear God's word in their own language

Major project outcomes (what we visualize as the future state of affairs):

- a) **Translation: Scripture in Mazatec and available to the people.**
- b) **Scripture use: People reading and listening to Scripture (books, cassettes, & CDs).**
- c) **Promotion: Pastors, teachers and political leaders promoting the use of Mazatec.**
- d) **Capacity building: Mazatec speakers teaching, preaching, & serving others in Mazatec.**
- e) **Responsiveness to God: Using unforeseen opportunities God arranges along the way.**

Outcome a, Scripture in Mazatec. Felix and I revised Genesis chapters 36 to 46, working through the translation Froylan did several years ago. Felix does all the computer work, editing the Mazatec text as we look at it together and talk about words and sentences and cultural assumptions. He uses a program that has six windows open on his computer screen – the text in Mazatec which we're revising, plus five Spanish translations in the other five windows. On my computer I have the Hebrew text and some commentaries.

Frankly, Felix is better at computer stuff than I am. He also continued work on the script for the Mazatec sound track which will be put on the Gospel of Luke video. He's half way through what he hopes will be the final revision. He's kind of a perfectionist.

Outcomes b and c, Scripture use and promotion. Felix did not teach any classes in Jalapa and spent little time relating to local pastors and teachers this quarter. He was at the University of San Luis Potosi during July (see below), and then he and Lupe spent most of August and September with Judy and me at our group translation center in Mitla, Oaxaca. But I spent some useful time with the mayor of Jalapa discussing the publication of some Mazatec materials I'm preparing for publication. (Consider me an assistant to Felix.)

Outcome d, capacity building. Every July we translators working in Mexico offer a summer course in basic linguistics at a Mexican university. The goal of the course is to invite Spanish speakers into Bible translation, as well as introduce them to the nature of language. Felix was on staff this summer, teaching about language sounds and how we use our mouths to make them. He was one of the favorite teachers. He was invited to be on staff because the director of the course heard about his teaching ability and what an excellent student he was at the Lima, Peru, course last year. It's a remarkable achievement for someone who does not have a university background to be invited to teach on a university level staff for a summer course. That's the kind of guy he is.

Outcome e, responsiveness to God while we're doing all this other stuff. Part of the time in Mitla Felix was sick and we were not able to work together. Sometimes it seems like besides opportunities God puts hassles in our lives that we would not have wished for. I guess this one was an opportunity to reflect and remind myself that all our activities are in God's hands and He wants us to stay focused on Him rather than falling into compulsive workaholic behaviors.

Felix comments at the end of his September report: "We're happy. I'm delighted with my marriage. We pray always for the whole team working together – Terry, Judy, contributors, consultants, people who pray for us, and friends." I.e., he's praying for you too.

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Terry Schram
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