

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

October, November, December 2007 (first quarter FY 2008)

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.

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Outcome a, Scripture in Mazatec. Felix finished revising Luke chapters 12 through 24 for the Mazatec sound track which will be put on the Gospel of Luke video. He expects this to be the final revision. But (no surprise to me) as he thinks about Jesus speaking Mazatec to the people around him, and as he and Lupe go over Luke materials together, he continues to pondering words like “bless” and “sin” and the impact Jesus’ words will have on today’s Mazatec hearers, both church people and non-church people who will be fascinated by Jesus in their own language.

He revised the subtitles in the chapters of Genesis we worked on together. He had his reading class at a local church read and study five chapters of Genesis and make an outline of what they read. This particular activity was the starting objective of the whole project: To teach reading in local churches, using Scripture as assigned reading material, with the goal of teaching people how to study Scripture. Praise the Lord for this one, please.

Outcomes b and c, Scripture use and promotion. Felix has done some translating for the Spanish speaking pastor of the church nearest his home. Rather than the usual word-for-word approach used in the churches, he has focused on the meaning of whole sentences and paragraphs and made the Spanish speaker really communicate in natural Mazatec. Two results: 1) people really understand better what is being preached, and 2) people are becoming more aware that they can listen to Scripture in Mazatec in their own homes on the cassettes and CDs that are available.

Another group meets in the home of an aunt of his who lives in a neighboring community. She came to get cassettes for her group.

Outcomes d, capacity building, & e, responding to opportunities. One of the students at the university linguistics course where Felix taught on staff last summer is in seminary. She got very interested in translation. As part of a missions week at her home church she went to visit Felix and Lupe to learn more. Lupe served as the indigenous translator, and Felix coached the two of them in translation techniques. He’s a born teacher.

He also spent some time afternoons teaching two neighbor children arithmetic. He says they learned in

Mazatec in an hour what they had not learned in weeks in their Spanish speaking school classes. This kind of activity means that Felix is also developing Mazatec vocabulary in a new area. (We have words for numbers of course, but “plus” and “minus” are technical vocabulary.)

A young fellow he was training as a teaching assistant for the class at church is now reading fluently.

He ends his November report, “God give you good health and peace. May the Lord’s desires be reality in your lives and the lives of friends and donors and the people who pray for us.”

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