

Dear people who keep us going,

I've been reflecting on this life and this job, and the unexpected things that come along, both welcome and unwelcome, and your unwavering support in finances and prayer. I feel deeply grateful – to God for this good life and to you who make it possible for Judy and me.

Here's food for thought. Judy's mom, age 93, had surgery the end of February. We hurried up from Mexico and have been living in her apartment on the Wycliffe center in Dallas. She has progressed slowly – from the hospital, to the rehab and skilled nursing section of a Presbyterian retirement home, and finally to the assisted living section there. She now lives down the hall from Judy's aunt Eunice Pike, 94. Eunice was once a world-class thinker about tone languages and has written books about what it's like to be a Bible translator. Now she has Alzheimer's disease and doesn't know us. I'm reflecting on Paul's comment about waiting for Jesus to come change our humble bodies to be like His glorious body.

Meanwhile (part of waiting for Jesus) there's work. Given computers and email, a lot of our work is portable. I've also been back in Mexico to consult with both Felix and Benito. Felix has finished revising Genesis, and I have his notes to go over. He will offer a public reading course during July. He's advertising it and charging a small fee so people will take it seriously. There's no feeling of competition with the bilingual teachers. A local school is even offering the use of a classroom. That's a remarkable blessing because he could be viewed as a threat. The teachers still talk about Mazatec in Spanish rather than actually writing it. Felix can do what they can't, but he's such an excellent relationship builder that they respect him. He is supported directly by some of you as well as by Judy and me. (If anyone is interested in supporting and getting quarterly reports about a talented national worker, here's an opportunity.)

Benito speaks another Mazatec language (Ixcatlan Mazatec). It's related to the one Judy and I know (Jalapa de Diaz Mazatec) about the way Spanish and Italian are related to each other. He's supported by Seed Company funding. I just finished checking the exegesis of his translation of Mark. He's becoming a very good translator, and it's a pleasure to work for him this way. I also checked the exegesis of the New Testament in a third Mazatec language (Ayautla Mazatec). Wycliffe colleagues used a computer program to generate the first draft of that New Testament from the translation that Froylan and I did. Then they went over it with a speaker of Ayautla Mazatec to make Jesus and John and Paul and the others speak the way they speak there.

This job of Bible translator is bearing fruit in ways I could not have imagined, both directly in producing other translations and in working with people like Felix and Benito. I am very impressed with how they have taken initiative in their work, thinking of ways to get their own people to take Scripture seriously, each in their own language community. They work for God. I work for them. It's a good arrangement. They do things that I could not have foreseen (actually, so do I). I couldn't have written a project

description that would include all the results they produce because of their own imagination and energy and commitment to God.

As I think about them and how to help them live the lives God is giving them, I reflect on how you have helped Judy and me, not knowing exactly the different kinds of results that would come from our work. And I'm filled with gratitude – to God and to you. Thank you very much.

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