

Dear people who pray for Judy and me,

You're on a list in my computer because you responded a couple years ago when I asked anyone who receives my newsletter to respond if they would like more specific prayer requests. Looking back over old letters, I see I haven't written this kind of letter for a while. Sorry. I've probably wasted some potential prayers. Sometimes I get good ideas and then my mind wanders or something. Maybe it's age. Anyway, here are two specific requests about Judy and me right now.

I'm in Mexico, at our group translation center in Mitla, and tomorrow I'll be going to the Mazatec area to consult with Felix and Lupe. Lupe has read through Mazatec Matthew, just reading and thinking and seeing how it comes across to her and writing down her observations, something I invited her to do. Felix tells me she has useful comments about various passages for us to go over together. This amounts to a first revision of the text as Froylan and I translated it several years ago. I'm extremely pleased, because this is a purely Mazatec reading of the text without a non-Mazatec (me) looking over her shoulder. Felix sees the great value of such a reading as well, and he is proposing that he and Lupe continue along those lines, in effect doing what an indigenous language revision committee would do. This is a wonderful development.

So my prayer request is this. Please ask God to give Felix and Lupe and me wisdom in planning the next step of this program. I'm confident that the work Froylan did with me is very good work, but Felix and Lupe now have an involvement in the text that Froylan did not have and I could not provide as an outsider to their culture. Felix and Lupe are thinking creatively about how to make Scripture accessible to their own people, thinking within their culture in a way that I cannot do. Every missionary wants to work himself or herself out of the job, seeing the people he or she works with taking new responsibilities. That's what's happening here. Felix and Lupe and Judy and I want what God wants to happen next. Please join us in asking him to help us think clearly and responsively.

I arrived in Mexico ahead of Judy. She'll be coming next week, but she's currently in Dallas to be close to her mom and her aunt who are living in a retirement home. Her mom (93) was in the hospital a couple months ago and her aunt (95) was in the hospital a couple weeks ago. Judy is responsible for decision make for both of them, and the current decision has to do with the level of care each needs and consequently which section of the retirement facility they should be living in. Costs are not the most important consideration, but they vary considerably. The staff there are responsive and really love their older residents. We're very satisfied.

So the prayer request in this regard is for wisdom for Judy, that she'll know what questions to ask to get useful information and that she'll make good decisions regarding her mom and her aunt, both of whom also gave their lives to Bible translation in Mexico. Judy and I want to be responsive to God's leading, as I know you do as well, whatever your circumstances right now.

We wish you a prosperous and useful and thoroughly blessed new year.

Terry