

Huehuetenango, Guatemala

December 5, 2009

Dear Aaron and Hur, (See Exodus 17)

Thanksgiving Day has just passed, and if you are like we, you have MUCH for which to be thankful. Among the many things for which we are thankful is your continued upholding of us in the work here. CHRISTMAS is just around the corner, and we want to wish each of you a blessed time as you remember the greatest cause for thanksgiving in all eternity.

Several things stand out for us in the past several weeks:

The audio Bible in Chuj was finished, and distribution on MegaVoice players will probably start in January. We were also able to have Genesis in Pop Ti' (the new name for Jacalteco) recorded and put on CD's. This is the first Old Testament portion in Pop Ti' to be made available. We rejoice that in the past several weeks the Pop Ti' New Testaments, which were printed 4 years ago, have begun to sell. We are looking into the possibility of getting the Chuj Old Testament on MP3, and possibly in downloadable files on the internet. The New Testament is available in MP3 for both these languages.

The church in Jacaltenango is working to start a Christian school. (The moral situation in the public schools is calamitous.) We understand they now have government authorization. Hopefully they will have classrooms for 3 grades, come January. Pray about this with us. The organization under which the Chuj children's work operates has also been given legal recognition, which should make receiving help from outside the country easier.

At the beginning and end of November we were at workshops. The first part of the month we were in Santiago, on lake Atitlan, at the home of fellow CAMers, Daniel and Daphne Foote, who work with the Tzutujil language group. They were hosting a group of representatives from 7 languages which have one thing in common - each has a New Testament, but none has the Old. The Mayan Educational and Cultural Association is trying to encourage and provide help to these groups to translate and publish their Old Testaments. We took 2 Pop Ti' speakers: Anselmo Silvestre, who worked with us on the revision of the Pop Ti' New Testament, and Josefa Silvestre who just finished seminary. They were spurred on to take up this challenge, and since coming back did the recording for the CD of Genesis referred to above. Pray for them as they try to find others to work with them. Various books will probably be gotten out in audio before printing the whole Bible.



Just a few days ago we were in Jacaltenango for a workshop on how to teach children using Bible story videos produced by Vina, an off-shoot of Wycliffe Bible Translators' work here in Guatemala. The stories are told with finger puppets, and besides the video, each story comes with a handbook for teaching 5 lessons. The handbook is also on an audio CD. The one we were working with is the creation story, which has also been produced in Cakchiquel and Chuj. There were participants from several language groups, who studied in Spanish, but there were 4 Chuj speakers there who studied in their own language. By the end of the workshop folks from the Pop Ti' and Ixil groups were working to get organized to produce the materials in their languages. It sounds like an interesting year ahead. Pray with us for God's blessings on these projects.

Your servants to get God's Word out by every means possible,

David and Helen Ekstrom

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