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April 2, 2010

Dear Partner,

May your Easter be a day of blessings. We live in a culture where Holy Week ends on Friday, but St. Paul wrote that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then our faith is empty. He says that we must confess Jesus as Lord, and believe that God raised Him from the dead if we are to have life. Certainly a "dead lord" is a functional oxymoron. We can have no real relationship with someone dead. May our relationship be with the Living Lord Jesus.

We just came home from almost 2 weeks in Guatemala City, first to attend a meeting of the Guatemala Bible Society, and then to finish some medical check-ups that had been left pending, and for Helen to have cataract surgery on one eye. The eye has not recovered as quickly as we would like, but they tell us to have patience for another week or so and it will clear up. The rest of our check-ups went well, and the docs do not want to see us for another year. Praise the Lord with us for that.

March 23rd was a special day in the village of Sebeb. Unfortunately we were not there in body. The hymnbook on which Helen worked so long was presented to the churches for sale, and the MegaVoice players with the full San Mateo Chuj Bible was also made available. Besides that a CD with the first 4 books of the Old Testament was put on sale. We hope eventually to have the whole Bible in that format, and possibly have it on the internet for downloading.

It looks as if plans for retirement in the U.S. are on indefinite hold. Last October we became aware of the possibility of working with AECM – Mayan Educational and Cultural Association - an evangelical group whose primary focus is the translation of the Old Testament into 11 or more Mayan languages in Guatemala, which have the New Testament, but not the Old. This is being done with national translators, many of whom have no previous experience, and limited access to helps in Spanish. It became evident to us that this calls for help from someone with experience in translation and access to more resources. It seems like a niche into which the Lord has prepared us to fit. It involves attending and sometimes teaching at 3 training sessions a year, and then encouraging and consulting with some of the teams, much of which can be done by phone and e-mail. One of our priorities will be getting translations out in audio format as fast as possible. Pray with us for the working out of these thoughts, and for wisdom and spiritual depth for us to be a blessing in this ministry.

Thank you for your support in various ways over the years.

David and Helen Ekstrom

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