



# Foothills New Testament

Dear Partners,

Our goal at The Seed Company is to keep you informed of the progress being made by the Foothills Project you support. We realize how important your prayers and contributions are to those on the field doing the difficult work of translating God's Word into the heart language of the Foothills people.

Unfortunately, the Foothills project is facing more challenges than we first realized, some having come to light as recently as this year. One problem is not being able to get a first-hand report from the field for some time, trusting instead some second-hand sources of information that managed to filter through. This is not unheard of as team reports are sometimes delayed due to illness, political unrest in the area or communication difficulties such as computer malfunction. As you have read in previous Updates the political situation in Colombia is serious.

Adding to our concern has been the question of how much translation work can possibly take place under current conditions. Yet, despite conflicting news about field reports that had been completed but held up, we continued to hope they would be forthcoming. Nevertheless, because of an inability to confirm what we were hearing, last year we made the difficult decision to begin withholding funds. Regrettably, by the end of 2010 no new field reports had arrived.

## Americas Area – New Leadership in Place

In your last Update you learned that new leadership and management is in place for the Americas Area. Because that team is committed to doing whatever is necessary to advance the Foothills translation work, the first new management field trip of 2011 involved travel to Colombia where they met with The Seed Company's Colombian partner, Fundación para el Desarrollo de Pueblos Marginados (FDPM), a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works toward the development of indigenous peoples.

Alas, even our partner organization, we learned, has been faced with considerable operating challenges. This is one of the reasons we have not been able to get up-to-date reports. Related to that, we found out FDPM has recently put in place an active board that will have more direct involvement in day-to-day operations of the organization. We hope this will be good news for all the translation projects they lead.



*For security reasons, pseudonyms have been used for the language name and names of individuals.*

- Location: Colombia, South America
- Number of Speakers: 14,300
- Year Project Began: 2003
- Expected Completion Date: 2012



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### Team Lacks Key Member

It was during that same trip that FDPM confirmed one unfortunate bit of news—the Foothills project has been without on-the-field leadership since sometime last year. Because of that and the translator’s personal hardships, we don’t know if translation work has been continuing since then or not. On a more positive note, FDPM is looking for another project leader and does have some promising leads. However, this is not a quick process and the leadership role will not be filled in the near future.

### Keep Praying

We ask for your continued prayer for this project. Bible translation ignites spiritual warfare, and prayer is needed for breakthroughs in several areas. Most Foothills people still need to hear and clearly understand the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Foothills people group has resisted outside influence for decades and that does not seem to have changed. The mother-tongue translation team, relatively new to belief in Christ, has experienced persecution at times.

- **Thank you for your willingness to pray and give for the expansion of God’s Kingdom.**
- **Pray that FDPM, our Colombian partner, will become a more effective organization as it works with various translation projects and indigenous peoples.**
- **Pray that God will reveal just the right person to join the team as project leader.**
- **Ask God to help that leader bring a Foothills translation team together again and to bring others to join and encourage them.**
- **Pray that the translator who has been working on the project for years and has faced much hardship will be willing to work with a newly-organized team.**
- **Ask God for supernatural protection for everyone involved in this project, as the spiritual warfare has been more intense than ever before.**
- **Pray also that as people hear the Good News, they will respond to God’s grace with open hearts.**

#### Six Steps of Translation

1. **First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
2. **Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
3. **Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
4. **Back Translation:** translators translate the draft “back” into a major language for a non-native consultant.
5. **Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
6. **Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

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3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333

[www.theseedcompany.org](http://www.theseedcompany.org)

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