



# Grasslands New Testament

## Grasslands Pastors Embrace Mother-Tongue Scripture Use

As the team waits for the New Testament to arrive in printed and audio form, they're focusing on introducing the concept of personal Bible study to the Grasslands people. They recently took the first step in this process when they held a Scripture Use workshop for pastors of two major church denominations.

Approximately 30 pastors attended the sessions led by translators Elizabeth, Pedro, Ubaldo and Eduardo. They supplied mother-tongue Sunday school materials and audiovisual teaching aids on the historical and cultural background of the New Testament.

Not only was the workshop a time of learning, it was also a unique opportunity for fellowship, growth and unity between the two denominations. It proved to be a breakthrough experience for many participants — where before they hadn't seen the need for translation, now they're supportive of Grasslands Scriptures. After the workshop, Pedro shared his observations with Petra, the project advisor:

"I am feeling great joy about the results of the workshop. A lot of what [we] have been working toward became visible. You have helped us understand that this is our work and that we have to do it together with the churches. Some of that is beginning to show, and I hope that more of it will become visible in the future.

"I feel great joy to see the [two denominations] meeting and being together in the classroom as well as in the kitchen. Nobody has complained about this, rather, we are really seeing the unity that Psalm 133 talks about.

"I am also really happy because I saw how the people in the three churches that we translators belong to supported us. I tell you with joy that in my church nothing like this has ever been seen. They supported us financially and with corn, beans and other things, and what they gave came together quickly. Whereas often, when a contribution is asked for, it really takes a while until some support comes together. It was a joy to see how the women of the church were ready and waiting when I picked them up to help in the kitchen at six in the morning when it was still dark. I am thrilled about my church, because I had not seen them being involved in a work with so much dedication until now.

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

- Location: Mexico
- Number of Speakers: 18,000
- Year Project Began: 2003
- Expected Completion Date: 2012



*Above: Translators and workshop participants gather for a group shot. Below: A noon meal affords pastors time for fellowship.*





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“I feel great joy because Pastor A., whom everybody respects because of his ministry, considers us a blessing for the pastors. He came to me and asked me to allow him some time at the end of the workshop, so that he could pray for us. I am so thankful for that. He went up front and encouraged the pastors and the others who were there to pray for us, and so they did, and A. gave thanks for us.

“I am so glad that the churches are now seeing us as part of their ministry; that really is a great blessing. Now I feel that the way is more paved for when the New Testament in Grasslands arrives ... I am happy that all [the pastors] were able to [draft a vision statement and] make a plan for their churches.”

- **Praise the Lord for the workshop's success and the two denominations' new unity. Pray that the idea of personal Bible study will take root in Grasslands churches.**
- **Ask that Christians will be able to stand firm against pervasive teaching by a predominant cult.**

### One Last Check

While Hosanna (Faith Comes By Hearing) added sound effects and background music to the newly recorded New Testament, the team finished two of the three final manuscript checks. Project advisor Petra also reviewed the lengthy Grasslands glossary that will accompany the published Scriptures. Now the team must carefully read the entire New Testament one last time to check for errors before they pass it along to the typesetter for printing.

### Public Relations for the Project

Recently, Elizabeth's SIL colleague invited her to attend the annual countrywide Baptist conference. Elizabeth helped at their translation booth, providing valuable information about the Grasslands project. She shared the team's vision with all who stopped at her booth.



*Translator Eduardo teaches the group of 30 church leaders.*

- **Thank God that the audio New Testament will soon be available online!**
- **Pray that the team will maintain sharp eyes as they comb the Scriptures once more.**
- **Praise the Lord for Elizabeth's unique opportunity to share the importance of Bible translation with Christians from all over the country.**

#### 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.

GRASSLANDS NT PROJECT UPDATE—2

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