



Las Flores New Testament

Is My Language Good Enough?

When your own language isn't "good enough" for talking to God, how do you ever tell Him what's on your heart? Maybe you just don't try; He seems too distant to care about your problems. Ah! But when you discover that you can talk to your Heavenly Father in the language most familiar to you, that He is happy to hear your prayers and answer them, well, a black-and-white world turns to color.

Consultant Jim reports that among the Las Flores people, "There is a very strong sense that Spanish Scripture is more fitting for church." On the other hand, people are thankful that team member Cecy has a gift for preaching in the Las Flores language, and that those listening can truly understand.

- **Rejoice that we can pray to the Father in the language most familiar to us and be confident that He understands us. Pray that Las Flores speakers will discover this too.**
- **Ask that God's Spirit will bring more Las Flores people to Himself, through the Word and through preachers and teachers who can minister in their language.**

Important Milestone

Consultants have checked all the New Testament books in Las Flores! This represents an important milestone on the road to publishing the Scriptures. The consultant check is one of the last assessments of the translation process. It ensures greater accuracy and faithfulness to the meaning of the original Greek. Now the translators just need to make the revisions that the consultants suggested.

As a translation project nears completion, it's important to redouble our prayer efforts for the team. The enemy of our souls does not like to see God's Word available in another language, and many teams have experienced strong opposition as they pushed toward the finish line. Sickness, disunity, equipment malfunctions — distractions of many kinds appear.

Gulmaro Lays a Good Foundation

Translator Gulmaro completed his second year at a Bible institute, taking courses on the Old Testament historical and poetical books, the Gospel of John and the New Testament epistles. These studies are a good foundation for his translation work. In the short run, the studies and homework have slowed Gulmaro down in the New Testament revision process. However, they'll prove to be a net benefit to the translation project.



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

- Location: Mexico
- Number of Speakers: 5,000
- Year Project Began: 2001
- Expected Completion Date: 2012

- **Thank the Lord that consultants have checked the entire Las Flores New Testament.**
- **Pray that God will protect the Las Flores team and their family members as the team pushes to complete the New Testament.**

- **Thank the Lord for the valuable Bible training that will help Gulmaro in translation and Scripture promotion.**



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Gulmaro also took a course on effective teaching, to help him share the Word. He made posters of Scripture text to place on church walls and in stores. His strategy for making the Word available includes reading from Mark, Ephesians and Philippians, James and Revelation in church services — sometimes encouraging others in the congregation to read along with him.

Moving Ahead in Translation

Gulmaro recently revised parts of Matthew, Philemon and John. He plans to do more revision of parallel passages — those texts in Matthew, Mark and Luke that are identical or very similar to each other.

Consultant Jim was able to visit Las Flores and work with Gulmaro and Juan to revise Philippians and the last chapters of 2 Corinthians. An outside consultant checked Ephesians, 2 Timothy, Philemon and James.

Good Readers Needed

The Las Flores team plans to produce a dramatized audio recording of the New Testament once the whole text is finished. Numerous people are needed to read parts, so the more they practice reading aloud in Las Flores, the better. Church leaders are encouraged to give people practice reading aloud published Scripture portions in Las Flores.

- **Ask God to multiply Gulmaro's time as he resumes the revision work, now that the semester is over.**
- **Thank the Lord for the good progress the Las Flores team is making.**
- **Translation can become tedious. Ask the Lord to help the whole Las Flores team grow in knowledge and love for Him through the translation work.**
- **Pray that church leaders will encourage their congregation members to read Las Flores Scripture aloud, not only for worship services but also for audio recording practice.**

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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