



# Las Flores New Testament

## Fishing for People

Jesus' disciples were tired. They were putting away their empty nets and grumbling at the poor catch. Now the Master is telling them to go out again! "Go out where it's deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!" (Luke 5:4-6, NLT).

Discouragement was present right before one of Jesus' greatest miracles. These men were fishermen; they'd done this their entire lives. Their very existence depended on their diligence, patience and perseverance. But today, they were done. Their nets were clean; it was time to go home.

Yet, at Jesus' direction, they launched out again — and witnessed one of the greatest miracles recorded in Scripture.

Like the disciples, the Las Flores translation team has had opportunities for discouragement. Although they've been diligently translating, comparing and revising while working with churches and testing in the community, lately it seems distraction is present at every turn.

A family member's illness, four-hour trips to Bible school, and a church in need — the list is endless. But at every turn, project leader Gulmaro does not cringe at how much work there is to do. Rather, he looks beyond the challenges before him and sees the "catch" — the people who will be drawn into the kingdom and blessed by having God's Word in their heart language. He sees his people embracing sound doctrine of the Scripture. He sees relationships restored. He sees his community on fire for God!

## An Unexpected Audience

The Las Flores language is not widely known, but word is getting around. In the past few months Gulmaro has been visited by a Russian linguist and a Mexican anthropologist from the Intercultural University of Veracruz, asking about the language. Interest is piqued in the community as well, and Gulmaro said, "Others come by simply to talk to me about how important our language and culture are."

## Ready — Begin!

With the translation complete, the team is inching toward publication. They are in the final stages of checking the New Testament to make sure it is consistent throughout the Gospels. How exciting!



*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

- Praise God for the encouraging words from others in the community regarding the value of the work.

- Ask God for Gulmaro's safety in travel to and from Bible school each week — the difficult bus travel, a river crossing by boat, and a late-night hike in the dark.

- Pray for the healing of Gulmaro's brother who has been mentally challenged since he was a young adult. Ask God to open doors for medical attention for this brother, as mental health care is lacking in these rural areas.

- Thank God curiosity in the community is growing as people hear more and more about God's Word coming to them in their heart language.

- Thank God for the opportunity to share His Gospel to unexpected people in unexpected places. Please pray that the translation team has the right words at the right time!



## Las Flores New Testament

Printers have been called. A team of readers and speakers has been assembled to record the New Testament Scriptures. They expect to begin recording sometime in March. Some have been primed to hear the Scripture in their own language. The team continues pushing on final revision as publication draws near.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Las Flores people are just getting ready to begin their journey to know more about God through His Word. Please pray that believers would learn to reach their culture through the Word of God in their heart language.

- **Please pray for creative ways to promote the use of translated Scriptures in churches.**
- **Thank God for the Las Flores people who are hearing the Scripture read and taught in their own language.**
- **Pray for increased use of the translated portions in the churches and for God's Spirit to prepare hearts for the whole New Testament when it is completed and published in their language.**

#### 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.

LAS FLORES PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333  
[www.theseedcompany.org](http://www.theseedcompany.org)

A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

