



Majukayong New Testament

“I Can’t Do What You’re Doing”

Pastors from the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines attended the recent dedication of the Bible translation office, caught the vision and became enthusiastic about joining the Majukayong team. They wanted to help speed up the translation task so that people could have God’s Word as soon as possible.

Immediately after the dedication, these pastors met with the translators to discuss ways they might help in the project. The team suggested that they could use the drafted Scriptures in their Bible studies and have their congregations test³ the translation for naturalness and accuracy of meaning. One pastor volunteered to check the drafts against English versions. A translator in the related Balangao language encouraged him also to draft¹ his own Scripture portions. Majukayong translator Ignacio agreed that both plans would be helpful and gave the pastor a chapter to either test or draft.

One week later, the pastor came to the office and said, “I’m sorry. I think this isn’t the kind of work God told me to do. We all have different gifts. I’d thought that yours was easier, but I found out that I can’t do what you’re doing. I’m giving way so that others can come join you.” Ignacio responded that everyone is welcome to help in whatever way they can. It took courage for this pastor to honestly evaluate and honor the special calling to translate God’s Word.

- **Pray that the Majukayong translators will find gifted reviewers to help check their Scripture drafts.**

In and Out of the Office

The team is enjoying the new translation office. It’s a few blocks away from the main road and gives them a quieter environment to work in. Another benefit is the added space, which they’re using for translation meetings and weekly devotions with the church elders. Ignacio continues to thank the Lord for this wonderful provision.

The Philippine Bible Society consultant worked with the Majukayong team to check⁵ their translation of Galatians and Ephesians, as planned. Then she gave Colossians and Jude to a fellow consultant, who will soon check those books with the team. Meanwhile, the translators finished their team check² of 2 Corinthians. More community testing of 1 Corinthians is also underway.



- **Location: Philippines**
- **Number of Speakers: 10,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2002**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Pray for the Majukayong translators’ families. Pray especially that their children will lead victorious Christian lives and that God will deliver them from evil.**
- **Continue to pray that the Lord will heal Ignacio and his wife Luth from their gum and teeth problems.**



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Valuable Training Opportunities

Ignacio attended a Paratext 7.1 training course in Manila and installed the Majukayong orthography symbols in his computer. He also learned how to use the new send/receive feature, which will enable him to easily and safely share project data with other team members and consultants.

Next month, the team will hold a workshop in Bible translation principles for Majukayong reviewers and for Balangao speakers who are interested in joining the translation work. Ignacio will also attend a three-week Biblical Hebrew course in Chiang Mai. He hopes to gain background knowledge of the Hebrew language, alphabets and writings.

In December, as part of his consultant-in-training work, Ignacio plans to check the book of James in another language with his mentor. This can only be done, however, if the back translation⁴ is in English, not Tagalog.

- **Pray that God will give Ignacio a clear mind, longer memory retention and the heart to learn Hebrew.**

In and Around the Community

Moving and settling into the new translation office took more time than Ignacio had anticipated, so he didn't have time to work on relations with the interchurch fellowship of church leaders. Nevertheless, relationships are being established. During translation checking sessions, pastors from various denominations sit down together and have discussions with the team. This brings down walls.

In addition, representatives from seven denominations came to the Bible conference held earlier this year. Also, the mayor assured the team during the office dedication that he supports the translation project and will help in whatever way he can.

- **Pray that the participants at the translation principles workshop will clearly understand the translation process and what they need to look for as they review the mother-tongue Scriptures.**

- **Pray that Ignacio will have time to build relationships with the interchurch fellowship and to encourage church leaders to use and promote the Majukayong Scriptures.**

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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