



PROJECT PROFILE

Foothills New Testament

THE PEOPLE

The Foothills people are a group of about 12,000 living in the mountains of South America. The people live on farms in houses with mud walls and thatch roofs. Some of them raise animals and take their products to market. They are basically subsistence farmers who survive off their land. This group is governed by leaders who try to maintain the traditional ways of the people.

BACKGROUND

About 10 per cent of the population is literate in either Spanish or their own language. Most of the Foothills people are preliterate and many of them monolingual in their own language. The people have been very closed to the gospel in the past. Three different translation teams have started work there but left because of the closed attitudes of the people and the difficulty of the ministry situation. The traditional people currently practice animism, including divination. Then, recently, around 150 of the Foothills people became believers.

THE NEED

In the past, those who have received the Lord have fallen away due to pressure from the cultural leaders and from a lack of grounding in God's Word. In order to grow strong in their faith and witness to others, these new believers need the Scriptures in their own language. There is a South American missionary working with them and there is a young Foothills man who has a strong call to translate for his own people. Now is the time to move ahead on this translation.

THE TEAM

José will be the main translator. He is a fervent Christian of a year and a half. During his short time as a Christian, he already seems to have some good basic knowledge and grounding in the Word of God. Committed and anxious to do the translation of the Scriptures for his own people, he plans to go to night school for the next two years while working on translation. He has done some initial translation of Mark and has received basic training in translation principles.

Juanita will be the literacy worker. She is also a relatively new believer. She has received some criticism from her family that she is wasting her time. She has a high school education. At this point she wants to give the next year to the project and then study at the university level. This could be by correspondence, in which case she might be able to continue with the literacy work while she studies. Both José and Juanita have taken some basic translation courses and a computer class and done well.

THE PLAN

The main goal is the translation and publication of the New Testament along with some Old Testament portions. José will continue to do the first draft translation that he's been working on. More Foothills



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

- **Location:** South America
- **Number of Speakers:** 14,300
- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2003
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012



Foothills New Testament

speakers will be sought out and trained to help with translation comprehension testing. Translation consultants will continue to mentor José and provide him with more training opportunities.

An SIL linguistics consultant is currently investigating the possibility of doing some kind of adaptation from a related language. This would greatly speed up José's work.

The other main focus will be on teaching new believers to read so they can read the Scriptures in their own language. They will investigate and collect all the literacy materials previously developed and see if these are usable or can be revised. The team will also hold literacy classes in the Christian Center, hold writers workshops and offer Sunday School classes.

The team would also like to develop a cassette ministry in order to help Christians, who live too far away for regular church attendance, grow in the Lord. After the book of Luke has been translated and tested, they will record the *JESUS* Film.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Foothills translators cannot complete their goals alone. They need your help. Your financial gift will support national Bible translators by providing computers, training workshops, wages for mother-tongue translators, travel costs for consultants and project supplies. Prayerfully consider how God might use your financial gift to bring His word to the Foothills people.

The translators also need faithful prayer partners who will commit to praying regularly for every aspect of the project. Translators and their families will depend on your prayers as they sacrifice to see the Scriptures in their language. Commit today to pray for the translation work in South America and the Foothills speakers who are waiting to hear about the love of Christ. Call The Seed Company at 1-817-557-2121 to let us know of your commitment.

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