



PROJECT PROFILE

Grasslands New Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Grasslands people descended from ancient inhabitants of Meso-America and live off the land, much as their ancestors did. Now a translation based on two closely related translations will soon provide the New Testament for the Grassland people. The project continues to have a positive impact on major denominations' relationships, as leaders meet together and cooperate, to meet this spiritual goal.

THE PEOPLE

Grasslands communities descended from people who inhabited this area long before the Spanish conquistadors arrived. They live spread over the Sierra Madre Mountains, still cultivating the land and herding small flocks of sheep along grassy slopes and valleys. Their main village was established in 1557. It now has 1,600 inhabitants and is known as "the doorway to the Sierras."

Today, these communities live off the land, like their ancestors in past centuries. Most people farm a small section of land or work as field hands, growing corn, beans, avocados, pecans, apples and peaches. Many also are pastoralists, raising sheep for food, income and wool for clothing. The average income is low, so migration to larger cities for better jobs is high.

THE NEED

Approximately 42 percent of the Grasslands population belongs to one of several denominations. Some churches have wanted mother-tongue Scriptures for a long time. Pastor Alfonso first developed a vision for Scriptures in his heart language, while he briefly worked with a linguist, serving a neighboring people group.

When he had contact with another linguist, he heard Scriptures on tape in his own language. As a result, the desire for God's Word in their language grew in peoples' hearts.

BACKGROUND AND LOCAL INTEREST

Pastor Alfonso's daughter Elizabeth and his niece Angeles, both grown women, began working with the nearby linguist, to draft the gospel of John. They are adapting it from a New Testament in a related language.

>>>



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

- **Location:** Mexico
- **Number of Speakers:** 18,000
- **Project Goal:** Adaptation of the New Testament from related languages; Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2003
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012



Grasslands New Testament

Angeles later realized her spiritual gifts lay in the area of evangelism and Bible teaching. But Elizabeth felt God's call to dedicate her life to translate God's Word for her people. So she took three levels of linguistics training, offered by a Christian organization in another city.

Soon, others in the community caught the vision and joined the team as well. In addition, several pastors, the village priest and bilingual teachers expressed their interest in this project.

THE PLAN

Two neighboring, related language groups already had translated Scriptures, so the Grasslands team worked from those to create rough drafts. Then they scoured the adapted Scripture carefully, so each passage was exegetically accurate, clear, natural and understandable. Next, the translation had a final revision. Now the project advisor is checking spelling and final formatting. At the same time, the translation is being prepared for audio recording, as an excited few dozen Grasslands speakers practice reading with emotion and expression.

But because many Grasslands speakers don't read, literacy efforts in the project are ongoing. This has helped encourage personal and congregational use of God's translated Word. Nevertheless, the audio recording is considered very important.

Finally, God has shown favor to translator Elizabeth, as doors opened for her to promote the language, with the support of local governmental officials. Plus there's ongoing support from Mexico's national organization of indigenous translators.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Grasslands translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your investment makes translation possible, providing training, adequate computer equipment, translation supplies and living expenses for the translators' families.

Your prayer helps translators and their families face problems like sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that can threaten their work.

Call The Seed Company toll-free at 1-877-593-7333 or visit www.theseedcompany.org/projects to commit to invest and pray for the Grasslands team.

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015
Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org
A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

