



PROJECT PROFILE

Las Flores New Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Las Flores is the largest of the three languages in the language family. The other two already have New Testaments published. This project is using computer-assisted translation from one of those related languages.

The Las Flores people value their language and have a healthy sense of self-esteem. They told their clergy, “We need the Bible in our own language.” The translation of Jonah was the first book ever printed in the Las Flores language.



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

THE PEOPLE

The Las Flores people grow corn and beans for their own use. As a cash crop, some grow coffee or oranges, although sugar cane is more common. Many young people have sought temporary work in cities because the local economy cannot support them. Older women still make and wear traditional hand-embroidered blouses with intricate patterns of flowers, fruit, birds and animals.

Because the priest who worked in the area after the land wars of the 1930s was not Roman Catholic, but Eastern Orthodox, the result is something unique among rural Mexican towns. The church in the town square is Orthodox and not Roman Catholic. In spite of this, the majority of the people really don't understand how the Orthodox church differs from the Roman Catholic Church.

THE NEED

Most Las Flores speakers identify themselves as Catholic, but their belief system demonstrates what anthropologists call “Cristo-paganism.” The saints of the church are considered gods or mini-gods with special power in certain domains.

In addition to the Orthodox congregation, a Roman Catholic priest conducts mass with a small group of devotees in a private home. There is a local Assemblies of God congregation as well.

While people acknowledge God, they also practice traditional medicine. A family will often seek out a modern cure from a local government clinic first. But if the illness persists, they will then turn to the local shaman to deal with the spirits.

- **Location:** Mexico
- **Number of Speakers:** 5,000
- **Project Goal:** Full New Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2001
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012



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THE PLAN

Although the project started in 2001, technological and geographic challenges have created hindrances for the primary mother-tongue translator, Gulmaro. Now that these challenges to communication among team members have been addressed, Gulmaro is making steady progress toward completing the work on the extended schedule.

As of 2010, Gulmaro had finished more than 86 percent of the New Testament. The churches are waiting eagerly for its completion.

In the interim, the populace is becoming increasingly literate. Government school teachers are required to teach the children to read and write in their own language. The students recite poetry in Las Flores and even sing the national anthem in their mother tongue! As Las Flores speakers become more literate, Scripture will be a strategic part of their literature base, giving the Spirit of God a vital tool through which to meet them on their heart level and draw them to the Savior.

THE IMPACT

This project will provide the New Testament for the Las Flores-speaking people in their heart language. It also will encourage use of the language in churches and schools. For the first time, the people in the churches will be able to hear God's Word in their own language. Christians will be strengthened in their faith and will grow in Christ. Non-Christians will hear God speak to their hearts and have a better opportunity to know Jesus in a personal way.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Las Flores translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your financial 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 Las Flores team.