



San Pedro

A Changed Life

Translator Benito is very happy with the two high school boys he found several months ago to help him with back-translation. When he'd needed to hire two more people to fill this role, he went to the director of the local school for recommendations. He asked for a couple teenagers, skilled in both San Pedro and Spanish. He received something greater than he expected—these two high school boys are the cream of the crop. They have an excellent grasp of both languages, and their back-translation work is humming along.

The boys have since commented to Benito on how well they understand the San Pedro Bible translation. Benito's heart really soared, however, when one of them shared that he's making changes in his life because of what he's read in the Scriptures during the back-translating work.

- **Praise the Lord for the impact of the San Pedro Scriptures in the lives of these two teenaged workers.**
- **Pray that these young team members will become followers of Jesus through their back-translation work.**

On a Roll

Teenage enthusiasm, when applied to Bible translation, is an amazing thing to watch. When their school day is over, the two high school boys head for the translation office and dig in. Since the last report, they've accelerated their way through eight books: they finished back-translating Galatians and then went on to back-translate Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Revelation.

All these texts were delivered to the translation consultant to check. Benito is more than thrilled with the quality of their work. The consultant will be looking at the back-translations this month. Afterwards, the project should move along to the next step.

Meanwhile, Benito continued to follow the checks in Paratext for the entire New Testament. Formatting and punctuation have been cleaned up on the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John, as planned. Benito revised John as well. Soon the consultant will look over corrections the translators made following the consultant's check of these books.



- **Location: Southern Mexico**
- **Number of Speakers: 11,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2005**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Praise God that the back-translation step has picked up speed.**
- **Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to speak to the hearts of these young team members through the words of the Apostle Paul in his letters to first-century churches.**
- **Pray that the consultant will be available on schedule to check the eight books that the young men back-translated. Pray for more translation consultants.**
- **Thank the Lord that the team has done community testing on John's Gospel through Revelation.**



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Getting It Just Right

Unique characteristics of the San Pedro language keep popping up. For example, the word *je*, spoken with a mid-tone, means *already*. But when it's spoken with a high tone it means *sin*. So it's essential to get the pronunciation marks just right.

The team also encountered an important homophonous word. *Kjoato* can mean either *gift* or *love*. The only way to know the correct meaning is in context. So a translator needs to make sure the context is clearly understood during the community testing phase.

Benito's Influential Teaching

Each morning, Monday through Thursday, Benito grabs his teaching bag and heads for the local school where he invests an hour with students in a primary class. He supplied them with notebooks, pencils, pens, alphabet pages and literacy games and is passionate to see them learn to read and write in their mother tongue. His creative teaching methods have already made him a sought-after teacher by the school administration.

- **Pray that the translation team will clarify the many small details of the San Pedro language while drafting and checking the Scriptures.**
- **Praise God for Benito's opportunity to influence children through mother-tongue literacy classes.**