



San Pedro New Testament

Mistaken Identity Ends in Forgiveness

Translator Benito's teenaged son was recently beaten up by a gang of kids. When he came home with visible wounds, Benito and his wife, Juana, prayed for wisdom to know what to do. They decided to talk to one of the kid's parents, and they found out it was a case of mistaken identity. The kids thought Benito's son was someone against whom they had a grievance. In a culture where vengeance is the norm, Benito and his wife did something very unusual — they forgave them.

Benito said, "Thanks to God that He gives us wisdom and touches our heart to forgive and to ask for forgiveness when necessary."

- **Praise God for giving Benito and Juana a spirit of forgiveness toward their son's attackers.**

Getting the Word Out

When Benito showed the Luke video in the town square of one community, all eyes were glued to the screen. Many San Pedro speakers don't speak Spanish, so they've never heard God's Word. Benito feels blessed to make these trips to various San Pedro communities, showing the video in their mother tongue and watching God use it to change lives. He's trusting that God will continue to impact more communities through the film.

Because San Pedro is an oral society, Benito will produce more audio copies of Revelation and make them available with the 30 printed books. Also, he'll print more Bible verses on a variety of materials to continue generating community interest in the Scriptures.

- **Pray that God will use all of these resources to bring the San Pedro people to Jesus.**

Discipleship

Gregorio, Benito's new assistant, has learned how to read San Pedro and is now learning to write it. He enjoys thinking about Scripture and is growing in his faith by delving into God's Word and experiencing God speaking directly to him. Benito continues to disciple him and is greatly blessed by having Gregorio share in the translation work. He's also been teaching him how the Paratext program works.

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

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



Enraptured by the story of Jesus

- **Pray that Benito and Gregorio will continue to be a blessing to each other and understand God's word more fully.**



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There's a double blessing. The consultant noticed that Benito is being disciplined by the Scriptures he's worked on. He's applying scriptural insights to his relations with both civil and church people in San Pedro, as seen in the way he and his wife handled the incident with their son.

Out Loud Works Best

As oral learners, San Pedro readers often prefer to hear a text rather than read it. Knowing this, the team is preparing books for the consultant in a new way. Benito reads the text to Gregorio in Spanish, they analyze its meaning and then decide how to best convey the same meaning in San Pedro. The consultant said this was a culturally better way to work, and he encouraged Benito to read to Gregorio outside of their work sessions.

Both Benito and Gregorio admire the wisdom and knowledge God has given their consultant. He helps them make the translated Scripture more understandable than Benito ever thought possible. The consultant plans to check Ephesians and Colossians this month and is eager to help Benito understand Paul's writings. He plans to visit southern Mexico every other month or so to keep up with the translation-checking process.

Dictionary Advancements

Benito attended a dictionary workshop and learned how to use the FieldWorks Language Explorer. FLEx helps translators create dictionaries and analyze discourse features. When focusing on the meaning of San Pedro words, Benito found himself sharing with the other participants just how beautiful the San Pedro language is, particularly how words are combined to give different meanings or subclasses.

The team is busily converting data to FLEx and has over 2,500 entries. They plan to continue working on it steadfastly.

- **Continue to pray that the Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas will publish the dictionary.**

- **Pray that God will give the consultant wisdom to help the team understand God's Word fully so they can make it clear and natural sounding in San Pedro.**



Benito, seated left, learning the dictionary feature of the FLEx program

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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