



Southern Mexico NT Cluster*

Santo Domingo—Fireworks, a Band and a Parade

Sunday afternoon, February 20, 2011 dawned bright and clear, and people from high in the mountains poured into the center of town.



The parade begins at Josefa's house

A gigantic banner in front of an open-air stage decorated with blue and white streamers proclaimed the purpose of the celebration: the dedication of the Santo Domingo New Testament.

A procession of townsfolk made their way from Josefa's house to the town square. Men carried boxes on their shoulders, and women and children followed. All watched as the boxes, filled with the first Santo Domingo New Testaments, stacked up prominently in front of honored guests.



Festive town band

For two joyous hours, town dignitaries, church leaders and SIL representatives offered grand speeches. Children recited poetry in Santo Domingo and Spanish. Mother-tongue translators Josefa and Tranquilino received certificates on behalf of The Seed Company.



Boxes of Santo Domingo New Testaments on display

Then it was time for the main event. First, the band played and fireworks went off high in the sky. Then the town president ceremoniously cut open the first box, fiddled with the wrappings and held high for all to see a beautifully bound copy of the New Testament in their very own language, Santo Domingo.



A portion of the crowd

Forty years—that's how long the people of Santo Domingo waited for their New Testament! The joy displayed at the dedication was heart-touching as the Lord honored their enduring patience. This was particularly meaningful because recently the Lord reconciled some long-standing divisions in town so that the dedication would be open to everyone. And it was.



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

- Location: Mexico
 - Number of Speakers: 21,300
 - Year Project Began: 2000
 - Expected Completion Date: 2011
- Praise God that the Santo Domingo people finally have the New Testament in their heart language for the first time.
 - Pray that the people of Santo Domingo will use these New Testaments and that lives will be changed.



Children—just one of the reasons Bible translation is so important. "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14, NIV)





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Santa Maria—Distributing Materials

Sue and Lidia revised part of Genesis. It's a long book and they'll continue to work on it. The team prepared Lidia's testimony and published it in print and audio form. Lidia also drafted more literacy stories. She visited the language area at Christmas and distributed her testimony and numerous storybooks.

The team completed the six storybooks originally scheduled for literacy training. They'll distribute them throughout the language area by sending them along with various people who are making the trip.

Plans are under way for the New Testament dedication. Although no date has been set yet, the team is thrilled that several individuals and churches have expressed interest in helping with it. Meanwhile, Sue and Lidia will work on more storybooks.

San Miguel—Up and Rising

When Bernardino attended a recent Revelation workshop, everyone confirmed that he can make good suggestions for the text. As an unexpected joy, he grew closer to the Lord during this translation step. He now wants to study Scripture for himself and asked for copies of several commentaries.

Profeta and Bernardino revised Revelation and will draft Matthew 3–10. They hope to finish the drafting, revision, community checking and consultant checking of at least the first chapters of Matthew before the end of this year so they can publish a Christmas story booklet in season.

Profeta's testimony of how far one can go with the Lord continues to impact students. She taught mother-tongue translators in Peru and will continue her translation training.

San Vicente—Soon to Hit the Press

The San Vicente team is overjoyed because the New Testament is now ready to send to Korea for printing. Next, the mother-tongue translators will finish drafting Genesis and begin revision with a translator from another language.

San Pablo—Still Needing Prayer

There has been no word from Rolando.

- Continue to pray that Lidia's high blood pressure will be controlled.
- Pray that the team continues on, steadfastly pursuing their studies as a shining example of God's empowerment.
- Pray for successful printing of the San Vicente New Testament and its safe arrival in Mexico.
- Pray that villagers will enthusiastically participate in planning the New Testament dedication ceremony.
- Continue to pray that Rolando will be encouraged to trust God through this long ordeal.

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.

SOUTHERN MEXICO NT CLUSTER PROJECT UPDATE—2

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