

# The Beans' Talk

Update from Mark and Patti Bean: Translating God's Word for Quechua speakers in central Peru

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## Thanksgiving: An Ear Update

Obvious thanks this year goes for my new ear. One man with a new cochlear implant described it well when he wrote that his audiologist's voice sounded like *"a toy piano, each syllable a tiny ping."* Other people, he said, sounded like *"droning robotic cartoon rodents. Add Darth Vader to Alvin and the Chipmunks, then divide by four."* Slowly but surely people are sounding less ridiculous to me and starting to make sense.

I can hear things I haven't heard for years. I can identify sounds like the furnace, someone blowing their nose, bacon frying, a knock at the door and the refrigerator turning on. Today my brain thinks those sounds are so obvious. But they weren't just a few months ago!

One day my battery ran out before the church service was over. "How was I able to follow the messages without an implant?" I wondered. The implant "rounds out" people's speech, supplying sounds like *s, f, th, sh, ch* and probably others as well. I am not so brain weary at the end of the day from concentrating on people's mouths and trying to follow conversation. I can relax a lot more.

I continue to listen to recorded children's books, plugging directly into my implant. Sometimes I only have to peek at the book to clarify a word or



two here and there. One performer was so clear that I understood the whole book without peeking! Then, the voice quality of the next book was so different that it took me several chapters before I could close the book. Time...patience...practice!

## Thanksgiving: the Word

Timoteo, one of the Huaylas Quechua translators working with Mark on the Old Testament, mentioned how impressed he is with God's faithfulness. Through page after page of

the Old Testament he sees that God is faithful to his covenant people even though they were not always faithful to him. He noted that the way we know this is through God's revelation to us in his *word*. He is excited that as more and more of God's word becomes available in Quechua, Quechua speakers will also have a greater understanding

of God's faithfulness. Just this year the New Testament was published and dedicated for Huaylas Quechua speakers. God's word becoming available: *that's* something to be thankful about!

## Thanksgiving: a Sacrifice

In Psalm 50: 13-14 God says he'd rather have true thanks than the blood of bulls. Then in verse 15 he says, *"Trust me in your times of trouble and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory."* (NLT)

We were very disappointed when Ernie dropped out of school this fall. His plan now is to finish his senior year by correspondence over the Internet. We may never understand how difficult that situation was for him. We are thankful that God knows. We are thankful that God is not lost

or confused about this. We are thankful that God is at work in ways we cannot see. We are thankful that God's love for Ernie is deeper and more perfect than ours as parents can ever possibly be.

### Prayer concerns:

- ❖ for safe travel this month. Mark returns from Peru to Ohio on Dec. 2. Emily and Eric will be driving home for Christmas, and after Christmas head to a conference in Indiana.
- ❖ for Mark as he works most of this month in preparation for the next Old Testament workshop scheduled to begin late January. He will need to finish preparing Hosea. The book of Hosea is much harder to translate than anything he's worked on so far.
- ❖ that Patti might encourage the women listening at a Christmas brunch on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ for Ernie
- ❖ for special times together as a family and extended family over the holiday. Our oldest son Andy and his wife Rachel will celebrate in Okinawa. We will miss them again. This Christmas marks four years since I've seen them (Patti).

Thankful for each of you and your partnership with us,

*Mark + Patti*

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