

The Beans' Talk

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



Dissecting Words

One of the problems we face in translating is teaching our co-translators how to do a good job punctuating. One way to do that is to teach them better how their language works. So, Mark has been teaching them how Quechua words are put together.

For the last two workshops they have spent about an hour and a half each morning analyzing Quechua words and identifying their roots and suffixes. The last workshop, he divided the men into two teams, with teams sending different men to the board to analyze separate words. Each team coached their guy at the board, making it an enthusiastic group effort. If their analysis was perfect, they got a point.

Almost every day in conversation they told Mark how glad they were to be getting this teaching, and how surprised they were at the complexity and beauty of their own language. It is a real privilege and joy to teach them the inner workings of it. They say things like,

“Wow, what if we had learned this in school! This is great!”

Grease Up Your Back

We try to be faithful not just to the words of the original, but also to the emotions which those words should stir up in people. Speaking of impending judgment, Amos 4:12 says, “...prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” If we translated literally, there would be no idea of judgment. So, for our first try at translating, we said, “...get ready for me to come and punish you!” (God is speaking.) But for two of the Quechua languages in the workshop, that didn't really have much emotional impact. It was blah.

Saturnino (MYL translation team) thought back to his boyhood and what his mother would tell him when he would get into trouble. She would warn him of his father's soon return and his facility with the lash by simply saying, “Grease up your back!” That would be enough to start Saturnino trembling! The dread that those words stirred up is exactly what Amos 4:12 needs to communicate.

The words “grease up your back” applies to any impending punishment, not just with a whip. So, the new translation says: “...grease up your back for me to come and punish you!” Yikes!

Joseph Captures an Audience

Sumer, (South Conchucos translation team) read the story of Joseph to children in school from the published book of Genesis. After-

wards all the kids wanted to buy it for themselves! He was sad. He only had the one copy with him and missed the opportunity to sell any.

Coming up at next workshop:

- Go over what the men found while reading to people in their communities from 2 Kings chapters 13-25, Amos 1-9, and 1 Chronicles 1-3.
- Revise and get ready to take out to be checked in communities at least 1 Chronicles 4-21.
- Adapt and edit 1 Chronicles 22-29 along with the books of Hosea, Micah and Jonah.
- Continue to practice breaking down Quechua words.
- Continue Hebrew classes in the evenings for those who are interested.

January 25 Mark leaves for Peru.

January 28–February 15 Old Testament workshop #19

* Pray that the ten Quechua men continue to work well together, encourage one another, and let the word of God speak to them as they work with it.

* Pray that they might remember what they've learned and apply it to their translation work.

* Pray that the equipment works properly. Last workshop, Mark lost hours trying to resurrect dying hardware.

* Pray for Mark to be attentive to detail as he checks over the work of these five OT translations.

February 19 Mark returns to Ohio

We just returned from a long weekend in Indiana where the warm welcome of friends was a contrast to the cold cold weather!

Thank you for your faithful prayer support,

Mark + Patti

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