

Sharing news about translating the Word of God into Quiatoni Zapotec

# The Quiatoni Crier

June 2023

## Answered Prayers

In our last newsletter (January 2023), we asked you to pray for Pastor Armando and the Quiatoni churches, that they would see how much can be learned by studying God's Word in their own language.

You prayed and God answered, "It's time!"

We have been waiting and hoping for more than 30 years for the Quiatoni churches to be interested in having God's Word in their own language. So you can imagine our joy when Pastor Armando contacted Nicasio in April about helping a group of pastors who are interested in evangelizing in Quiatoni.

They weren't thinking about using Zapotec but when Nicasio and Beto met with them and showed them why evangelizing in their own language is so important, they agreed to have four day-long sessions to learn to read and write in Zapotec, learn songs in Zapotec, and learn methods of evangelizing.

Jumping ahead a bit, during the second session's devotional, Nicasio asked them what happened in Acts 2. "The apostles spoke in other languages." Nicasio asked, "Did the people understand those languages?" "Yes, they did." Then Nicasio asked, "So should we tell people about Jesus in the language they understand or in a language they don't understand?" That really made them think!



We had seven pastors and church leaders come to the first session (May 6). Two teens also attended, who were really interested and participated right along with the pastors and leaders. Nicasio chatted with Eloisa later and found that she was interested in going to a Bible school. He suggested that she attend the SIL course on translating 1 Corinthians with Beto and Fernando in mid-July and after thinking about it, agreed.

The second session (June 3) was well attended—even those who were making our meals (breakfast, dinner and supper) came in when they could get away from their kitchen duties!



We are all singing the Zapotec song that Meche has just taught.



Pastor Florencio practicing reading Zapotec, with the chart of Zapotec vowels on the wall. (Nicasio and Beto taught reading.)



Beto (at right) doing an impromptu drama with one of the pastors as a non-believer, to show how he evangelizes

using the 10 Commandments.



Candy told how she evangelizes by sharing Bible stories that apply to the person's situation. Then she

put everyone in pairs and had them practice telling each other the story of Creation.

There was a church service after each session and Nicasio was invited to preach both times.

♥ Thank God with us and ask Him to continue working in the Quiatoni pastors and churches.



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For information and finances for Valerie and Nicasio's ministry:

[www.cten.org/NicasioMartinez](http://www.cten.org/NicasioMartinez) or

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Please include a note that it is for Nicasio & Valerie Martinez's ministry

## Praying in Zapotec

At the beginning of the second session with the pastors, Pastor Armando said in Zapotec, “We’re here to prepare ourselves for evangelizing” and he read the Great Commission. “It says to go but sometimes we don’t even evangelize in our own homes or towns but we are here to prepare ourselves to do that. Reading and writing in Zapotec is part of that, too. Let’s pray to commit this time to the Lord.” He started praying in

Spanish, as did everyone else. Then Pastor Armando said, “I’m going to pray in Zapotec,” and he did. For about a minute, he was the only one praying, and then I could hear others softly praying in Zapotec, too.

It’s hard for me to realize how deeply ingrained it is for them to pray—and preach—in Spanish and how difficult it is for them to make the change to Zapotec.

♥ **Please pray for them as God changes their attitudes and habits.**

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## Zapotec Church Service in Our Local Church

In our last newsletter, we also asked you to pray for Miguel and Juana and others like them, that God would give them a hunger to really understand His Word by studying it in their own language. God answers in unusual ways!

Miguel and Juana are deacons and responsible for unlocking and locking the church for services, straightening chairs, opening and closing windows and curtains. No one had been doing that for the Zapotec service so Fernando (Candy’s brother) and his wife Elizabeth were appointed as deacons, to help with these duties. Since Fernando plays the bass for the Zapotec service, he and Miguel agreed that Fernando and his wife would take care of the Wednesday evening service and Miguel and his wife would take care of the Zapotec service on Thursdays. Miguel and his wife have been participating a lot

in the Zapotec Bible study!

In the same way, the Zapotec service hasn’t had an official treasurer present to collect the offering at the end of the service. The treasurer’s assistant agreed to attend the Zapotec service to collect the offering.

A newer believer wanted Nicasio to teach his daughter to play the guitar and Nicasio agreed on the condition that he attend the Zapotec service, since that’s where eventually the girl will play. We are happy to see the family attending!

And in the past few weeks, our new pastor (the man who started our church; our previous pastor passed away in March) and the new assistant pastor have also been attending!

♥ **Please pray that God will open their ears and hearts to learn from His Word in their own language.**

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### Family News

**Rusty** writes: June is a busy month for me! By the end of the month I will have photographed two weddings, been a groomsman in another, and worked many hours at the Lilly Center! In my spare time I’m enjoying reading outside, kayaking, and spending time with friends. I’m also picking up pickleball which has been a fun sport to learn!



Rusty reunited with childhood friends (from Mexico) in Buffalo, NY! L-R: Tim, Greg, Rusty

**Tara and Mike** write: We are doing well. We are thankful for a definitive diagnosis for a health issue Tara has had.



**Royan** continues to progress in his speech. We are also excited to announce that we will be moving to Oaxaca City this summer! We are very excited to be closer to Mom and Dad (Abuelita y Abuelo). Mike’s very thankful for his company allowing him to work from Mexico.

**Nicasio’s dad** passed away in February. While we miss him so very much, we are also rejoicing that he is not in pain any more and is in heaven with his Savior. **Nicasio’s mom** continues living in Quiatoni, her daughter and son-in-law live with her and take care of her. She misses Dad, as we all do, but seems to be adjusting.

To contact us and/or to receive our monthly updates, write us at [Val.Nicasio.Mtz@gmail.com](mailto:Val.Nicasio.Mtz@gmail.com)