

**Update and Prayer Requests: July 2023**  
**Valerie and Nicasio Martinez**  
**Translating God's Word with and for the people**  
**who speak Quiatoni Zapotec**

Yesterday morning (July 24) we took Eloisa (a gal from Quiatoni) and Rebeca (whose mom is from Quiatoni and they live here in Tlacolula) to the linguistic center in Mitla. Beto and his brother-in-law Fernando met us there since they and the gals will be attending a three-week workshop on 1 Corinthians 1-9.

Eloisa is interested in attending Bible school and since she speaks Quiatoni Zapotec, Nicasio thought she might enjoy the challenge of studying 1 Corinthians and thinking about how to translate it into Quiatoni Zapotec.

Rebeca was a passive bilingual and is becoming more and more adept at speaking Quiatoni Zapotec. She's a leader in our church's (here in Tlacolula) youth group and she wants to study the Bible more. She's also been very active in promoting the Quiatoni Zapotec translation in different ways and we talked this morning about her taking over the distribution of calendars with verses from the translation on it!

Fernando plays the bass for our Zapotec church service and takes turns with Beto to do the opening part of the service. We are studying through the Gospel of Mark for the opening part and we are delighted and often amazed at his mini-sermon on the section of Mark that we read. We hope the workshop will open his mind even more.

Beto will be in charge of the team during the workshop as well as applying what he learns to the translation. 1 Corinthians still needs revision so this workshop will be a big help towards that. (The rest of 1 Corinthians (chapters 10-16) will be studied in another workshop in October.) Last night Beto said, "The workshop went well. It's always a pleasure to learn."

We are truly thankful to God for the people He has chosen to attend this workshop. Please pray that the workshop will be a blessing to each one as well as to translating 1 Corinthians.

During July, Nicasio and Beto have been going over the consultant's comments on the book of Acts. You may remember that the consultant goes over our translation and makes comments and suggestions on the translation, then Nicasio and Beto go over the consultant's comments and suggestions. Most times the comments and suggestions are helpful but there are times that there was a misunderstanding of the translation or that there just isn't another way to say that particular idea. We are thankful for colleagues who have more experience in translation and who have done additional studies to be consultants and help us make our translation the best it can be.

Nicasio has also been going over the Gospel of Mark since we are studying it at the beginning of the Zapotec service. Mark was the first book we translated, had consultant checked, and published, way back in 1996! Nicasio has learned a lot since then! And he and Beto have come up with better ways to translate some of the important concepts in the New Testament (like

synagogue, temple, Saturday/day of rest, etc.). So he's been revising the Gospel of Mark so that it's up-to-date.

Over the past several years, Beto and Candy have made “big books” for Candy to use in the Zapotec Sunday school. Since some Quiatoni pastors have shown an interest in using Zapotec in their churches and because Candy has shown them how Bible stories can be used to help people and lead into evangelism, I decided that we should make the big books into regular size books to distribute among the believers in Quiatoni. These are the five that are done and printed; there are another 10 almost ready to print. Hopefully they will all be done by the time we go to the next classes with the pastors on August 5. We appreciate your prayers that these will be a blessing to the believers and to those whom the believers share them with. We also appreciate your prayers for the pastors’ classes and their continued interest in using Zapotec in their churches.



A LOT of books were donated from three different places to the Children’s Library. I’ve been resisting the temptation to start processing them so that I can finish the Old Testament storybooks. I hope to start working on them in August to make them available to the families and to reclaim the space they are taking up in my office!

Today is Mike’s 27<sup>th</sup> birthday! Mike and Tara are looking forward to moving to Mexico and are excited to have found a house and are working on selling their house in the US.

Rusty writes: My life is nice and boring right now! I am enjoying summer in Winona Lake, spending time on a friend's boat, and playing pickleball. I have a lot of photo editing to do as well so you'll also find me inside working and watching my new show obsession: Suits!

Thank you, dear friends, for your interest in our ministry of Bible translation and for your prayers and support so that we can continue on. Thanks for being on our team!

love, Valerie and Nicasio

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