

# The Quiatoni Crier

April 2022

## Our Friend Rebeca



Recently Rebeca asked us if we could take her, her sister and her mom to Quiatoni since she had been asked to decorate the church for a friend's wedding and to make the center pieces for reception tables. Since we had to see someone in the Quiatoni area, we said yes and combined the two trips.

On the way, Rebeca started shyly telling us about the center pieces that she'd made and the little card that would be included with each one. (Here center pieces, napkin holders, salt shakers, and other things have the bride's and groom's names or initials and their wedding date on them. Guests take them home;

even more Zapotec since the group often played in Quiatoni churches.

Rebeca told us that when she was decorating the church for the wedding, she turned her cell phone on to the app that Beto put some of the Quiatoni Zapotec New Testament on. Then, so she and her friend could hear it better, she connected it to one of the speakers. Pretty soon she noticed that it was very quiet in the kitchen, where before there had been lots of chatter and laughter. Then the cooks started asking Rebeca questions about what was being played, who translated it, what some of the parts meant.

The man who was helping Rebeca and her friend with a ladder for the decorating asked her some questions, too. Rebeca asked him if he'd like a CD with it on to listen to. He said yes, so later Rebeca gave him a CD.

After the reception, Rebeca gave a CD to the groom's parents and another to one of her aunts. The aunt could hardly wait to transfer the recording to the solar powered radio that she takes to her farm so she could listen to it there.

Rebeca told me that she happened to have those CDs from a several years ago when we had provided the Gospel of John on CDs to those who attend the Zapotec church service to hand out to people who speak Quiatoni Zapotec. When she was getting ready to go to Quiatoni to decorate for the wedding, she found them in her bag and decided to take them along!

- ♥ Thank God with us for Rebeca and how He is using her to share His Word with those who speak Quiatoni Zapotec.
- ♥ Thank God for Sofia, Rebeca's mom, too. Recently she said, "I used to be afraid to tell people about Jesus but since we are studying the Bible in Zapotec, I know what to say!"

you can imagine the rush for them when the time comes!) Rebeca showed us the little card she'd designed to put on each center piece, with Matthew 19:5-6 on it in Zapotec!

Rebeca told me later that she first thought about having the verses in Spanish but then thought, "No! This wedding is in Quiatoni and I'm going to put them in Zapotec!"



actual size (1.5" x 2")

For someone to think of and do something like this is pretty impressive! We love how Rebeca and a few others are really using God's Word in Zapotec in their lives. Rebeca has told us that she understands the Bible better in Zapotec than in Spanish. What's amazing about both these things is that Rebeca's first language isn't Zapotec but Spanish.

She's one of the youngest in her large family and told me that even though her mom says that she always spoke to Rebeca in Zapotec, Rebeca doesn't remember that but remembers all her siblings speaking in Spanish, so she did, too. About seven years ago, Rebeca participated in the project on trilingual (Spanish, Zapotec and English) writing projects that Nicasio did for his Master's Degree. Since they had to read out loud in all three languages to the group what they'd written, Rebeca started speaking Zapotec.

Also around that time, Rebeca became part of the Zapotec music group, playing guitar and singing. This which encouraged her to speak

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

# Glimpses of What Others Are Doing with Zapotec

**Beto** is in his last semester for his Bachelor's degree as a teacher of foreign languages, with an emphasis in English. To graduate, he has to do an investigative project and write a small thesis on it. He decided to investigate if using riddles and tongue twisters would improve students' Zapotec reading ability. Interesting question, isn't it? He has seven young people signed up to do his project and travels to Quiatoni's second largest town each weekend to work on this.

**Candi**, Beto's wife, invited her sister and her new husband to join the Zapotec service, too. They live in Quiatoni and, if their internet is too sketchy to join via zoom, Candi calls them and they listen to the service via her cell phone.

**Fernando**, one of the regulars at the Zapotec church service, invited his mother-in-law, who lives in Mexico City to join the Zapotec church service. Since the service is still on-line, she's able to join, even at that distance!

**Virgilia**, one of the bilingual teachers who speaks Quiatoni Zapotec and has attended our courses in how to teach students to write in Zapotec, has been busy making books in Zapotec with her students. One project was collecting sayings and proverbs in Zapotec, writing one on each page with an illustration. She said, "We are giving the children the tools so that they can write in their own language. The children love to read their books, especially when they see their names as authors."

**Ely**, a Catholic woman who attended our

course, contacted Nicasio to check over the translation they had done of the Lord's Prayer. Later she texted him saying that everyone says the Lord's Prayer during mass and it gives her goose bumps to hear it!

**Lachiriega**, one of Quiatoni's smaller towns, has requested the Department of Education to send only teachers who speak Quiatoni Zapotec to their school. (Bilingual teachers are assigned at the state level and are often sent to areas outside their own language area.

The two elementary schools in **Quiatoni** and the two in **Salinas**, Quiatoni's second largest town, have joined together to form an Indigenous Language Committee, whose role is to encourage and help the rest of the teachers to incorporate Zapotec in their classrooms. Over the last couple of years, they have tried to get some of their materials published. We are happy to have the resources to help them publish their materials. Stay tuned for more about this!

We would love to see the churches more interested in using Quiatoni Zapotec in their services. At the same time, we are excited by the Quiatoni area teachers' interest! Imagine how many children are learning to read and write in their own language, having a more positive self-image as indigenous, and will be able to read the New Testament when it's published!

♥ Thank God for all these folks and the impact they are having on the speakers of Quiatoni Zapotec.

If you would like to receive our monthly update and prayer requests, let us know at [Val.Nicasio.Mtz@gmail.com](mailto:Val.Nicasio.Mtz@gmail.com)



**Mike, Royan, Tara**

Tara, Mike, and Royan are thankful for their health. They would appreciate prayer as the Lord called Tara's mom home on April 19th.

## Family News



check that the cancer is truly gone. All evidence points to the fact that my cancer is gone with a simple surgery to remove it, and without the need for additional treatment. I'm so thankful for my family's support, your prayers, and a wonderful team of doctors and nurses guiding me through this time! Here's to many more cancer-free years!

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**Rusty** In March I went to my doctor for my one year post-op cancer screenings! Why am I getting screened for cancer? I'm so glad you asked! In March of 2021 I discovered a tumor, and quickly went into surgery to have it removed. The biopsy revealed I had a non-aggressive form of testicular cancer. I was very scared, but trusted in the Lord's faithfulness. Following my surgery, I've done cancer screenings 3 more times to

Nicasio's parents are doing well; sometimes they are a little homesick for Quiatoni, but they enjoy seeing their kids and their families on the weekends, and Nicasio visits them several times a day.