

## **WORLD MISSION PARTNER UPDATE**

**April 2021**

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**Wycliffe**

How is your "Do list"? Do you enjoy ticking a task off the list? I do. The software (Paratext) we use for editing the Nahuatl Bible has a feature that tracks our progress, some parts automatically. It really is helpful, although a little daunting. Each book we translate has six stages of progress comprising over 40 steps in total, that's lots of ticking! Why so complicated? Well, creating the first draft is a milestone, but then come all the steps of editing, revising and checking. With a team of five of us working on different tasks in the same book, it is a real blessing to have Paratext keep track of who is doing what.

....the first step (of 40) is Exegesis; making sure we understand the text. It is good to take time to do that right at the start - someone came up with 12 steps for exegeting a passage, but we don't always spend that much time! Of course, later on in the process we will find problems and we have to go back to exegesis again.

For the last few weeks, the team has mostly focused on getting the book of Ruth ready for publication. So, each member of the team will check it and then take it to other Nahuatl speakers to test comprehension and naturalness. We also produce a very literal translation back into Spanish, we call it a "back-translation". By having Nahuatl speakers listen to the Nahuatl and give a verbal translation into Spanish we can check along with that prepared back-translation. Not all Nahuatl speakers are bilingual enough to come up with a good translation into Spanish, so this takes patience on the part of our team. This is also the FUN and blessing part of the process as the team sees people interacting with God's Word in their language. "What is barley?" "Why did God allow so much suffering in Naomi's life?" "What is a kinsmen redeemer?" "Why would the owner of a field leave grain for others to pick up?"

Once we are all satisfied that the translation is good, we will work with a specialist translation consultant to get his approval to publish. His main way to check the translation is via the back-translation, plus questioning the team on items he suspects could be problematic. We hope to have the book of Ruth ready for the consultant next month.

More progress: the first draft of Genesis is almost complete, lacking just one chapter. Each of the translators is responsible for about a dozen chapters in Genesis, so there will be plenty to keep track of as we start into editing and revision. Also, Nehemiah and Esther are complete and we have done some revision.

Elaine and I continue in good health, which we don't take for granted. We enjoy playing pickleball with friends which breaks up our weekly routine, enjoying some fresh air and outdoor activity.

Thanks for your fellowship in the Lord,  
Chris and Elaine