

The Beans' Talk: Update from Mark and Patti Bean

Translating all of God's Word for six different groups of Quechua speakers in central Peru

Chipping away

Translating the entire Bible is a long haul. Mark often felt like he was swimming across the ocean, head down, stroke after stroke, kick after kick. After awhile, he would lift his head and scan the horizon for a distant smudge of land. Nothing! Head back down. Keep kicking. Keep stroking. Finally, at the end of our April workshop it seemed that we had reached land at last! Hooray!

But now what faces us? It seems to be a huge block of granite! Every day Mark gets out his chisel and hammer and... *whack, whack, whack!* At the end of the day, a little splinter of granite chips off. Next day, do the same. To get these Bibles ready for printing, we have thousands of checks to chip away at.

What's a parallel passage?

Most of Mark's current whacking is chipping away at parallel passages. In Bible translation, parallel means "the same, or almost so." A parallel passage, then, is where words in one part of the Bible are the same or almost the same as words in another part of the Bible.

For example, Matthew 3:10 and Luke 3:9 are virtually identical in the Greek. The only difference is that Luke adds the word "and" at the beginning. In English, both passages say: *"Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire"* (ESV).

Many times a parallel passage occurs in several different books. But since we originally worked on one book at a time, sometimes verses that



should be using the same words don't quite match. Now we're making sure that they do.

Amen, I say to you!

Sometimes only part of a verse has its parallel somewhere else in the Bible. And sometimes we just look at expressions. For example, Jesus often says, "Truly, I say to you," saying it the same way each time. We need to make sure that our translation also says it the same way each time.

Interestingly, the word for "truly" in the original Greek is the word we usually translate in other places as *amen*. So, how about: "Amen, I say to you!"

We have a list of 4,783 of these places where words should be the same, or as similar as can be. Sometimes things get complicated. We've checked 2,868 of them for all six Bible editions— 60%. That leaves 1,915 more to go!

Praises and Prayer Requests

- ⇒ **Pray:** For sustained sharp attention to detail as Mark concentrates on parallel passages right now. It's more tedious than actual translating, but still rewarding.
- ⇒ **Pray:** For Mark as he serves as consultant for another team working in two neighboring Quechua dialects/languages. Mark is checking their translation of the book of Luke which they'd like to have ready before their next translation workshop in September.
- ⇒ **Praise:** The month of July teams from three of the languages we work with were down in the capital city of Lima preparing their script for the JESUS movie which is based on the book of Luke. Thank God with us for the JESUS film project.
- ⇒ **Praise:** For the beautiful road we're living on and the peaceful walks we enjoy on it.



Thanks for supporting us as we chip away.

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