

The Beans'Talk: Update from Mark and Patti Bean

Translating God's Word for Quechua speakers in central Peru

Surprise news

The very first day of this translation workshop, Sumer got an unexpected phone call from home. His wife told him she had given birth to a baby girl. Obviously, they knew they were expecting a baby, but they weren't expecting anything to happen until December. Sumer turned right around and traveled the 8 hours or so back home on the second day of the workshop.

I wish we had a photo of his new baby daughter. She was born on her big sister's third birthday. This photo is of another baby girl wearing a traditional frilly hat. After a couple weeks, Sumer hopes to come back and join us for the last two weeks of the workshop.



Words—and their emotional impact

On the surface, words strung together can appear very straightforward. Take the question, *"You're looking for a good life, right?"* To a Quechua speaker that phrase is incredibly negative. It basically says to the hearer, *"So you just came here to mooch, huh?"* This is doubly offensive when you realize that generosity is such a

high cultural value, and you've just accused someone of the opposite.

This same type of problem crops up in translation. Someone who knows a little Quechua wonders why sometimes we don't translate using what seem to be the obvious words. Check the following example.

The angel Gabriel greets Mary

This workshop the New Testament group started a final read through of the Gospel of Luke. Immediately they came to Gabriel's hailing Mary in verse 1:28. After greeting her he says, *"The Lord is with you."* Sounds simple enough. The translations for three of the five Quechua groups have exactly that: The Lord is with you. The men representing the

other two Quechua groups just shook their heads. *No way!* For them, this is too close to how people say someone is a woman's husband. So, they changed the words in the translation to preserve more of the meaning. In those two translations, Gabriel ends up greeting Mary and saying something like, *God is working in/helping you.*

Praises and Prayer Requests

- ⇒ **Praise** for all the safe travels God's provided these thirty-plus years on narrow mountain roads. **Pray** for all of us Friday December 5th as each of us travels home after the workshop. Once again we're ending a day early for elections. This time, there are run-off elections in many districts and states.
- ⇒ **Praise** for Sumer's new little daughter. **Pray** for him as he teaches his young family about God. Sumer has a tender heart and is always eager to learn God's word.
- ⇒ **Pray** for continued diligence as Mark works through the consultant check of all the Old Testament and wrestles with final decisions about how to express some key terms.
- ⇒ **Pray** for Mark on December 19th as he speaks to the first graduating class of Equipping Servants International in Huánuco. This graduating class of pastors is completing a two-year mentoring program going through the book of Romans. One of our main supporting churches funds this ministry. We're glad to have a tiny part in encouraging them.
- ⇒ **Praise:** the books of Numbers, Job and Matthew changed color this month, and 78 of the outstanding issues have been resolved.

Enjoy a very THANKFUL Thanksgiving. There is SO much to be thankful about, including each of you!

Thanksgiving Day is a regular workshop day for Mark and the guys, but I will join with some other ex-pats here in Huaraz and eat turkey! Mark will show up after work and hopes there will still be food left.

Mark + Patti

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This chart shows OT and NT **final revision progress** for all five participating Quechua languages. **Stage One:** NT material revised and ready for a workshop. **Stage Two:** revised by the workshop. **Stage Three:** checked by Mark. **Grayed out:** OT books we probably won't revise during a workshop, but Mark needs to check. **Stage Four:** final read-through & recording of key OT passages. Our goal: everything colored dark green by December 31, 2015.

GEN	EXO	LEV	NUM	DEU	JOS	JDG	RUT	1SA	2SA	1KI	2KI	1CH	2CH
EZR	NEH	EST	JOB	PSA	PRO	ECC	SNG	ISA	JER	LAM	EZK	DAN	HOS
JOL	AMO	OBA	JON	MIC	NAM	HAB	ZEP	HAG	ZEC	MAL	MAT	MRK	LUK
JHN	ACT	ROM	1CO	2CO	GAL	EPH	PHP	COL	1TH	2TH	1TI	2TI	TIT
PHM	HEB	JAS	1PE	2PE	1JN	2JN	3JN	JUD	REV	ISSUES (1,282 issues to resolve)			