

November 2020



Janet's Journal



God's Word going forth!

Does God's Word make a difference in people's lives? Is translating Scripture worth the sacrifice, your investment of prayer and finances? I'd like to share a snippet of news in answer to those questions. Over the years Leo, a Mazatec believer, shared Christ and saw his community transformed. He was the main translator for the Mazatec New Testament in Mexico. Now a pastor and evangelist, he walks hours to nearby villages to lead Bible studies and to encourage. He also oversees two translation projects in related dialects. Here is an excerpt from a letter he wrote recently: *"We are very thankful to God because this month, the first book of the Old Testament in Eloxochitlan Mazatec, the book of Genesis, was approved by the consultant for printing. This is a very happy thing because this work has all been done by people from the local church without input from our brothers that long ago began the work of translation in our town (Dan and Peggy Agee). The local church has matured and has taken ownership of the vision of translating the Word of God into our mother tongue, and because of this the Agees can be very satisfied and thankful to God because the effort and sacrifice they made in the beginning has been planted in our hearts as Mazatecs."* The letter continued telling more of how God's Word is being shared throughout that region. You, as my partners, share in the joy and satisfaction of seeing these people reached with the Scriptures.

Mobilization

Mobilization is the part of the Recruitment team which makes initial contacts to **Inspire, Inform, Educate,** and **Invite** people to join the ministry of Bible translation. One way they do that is by providing interesting and informative webinars (online seminars) called Explore Wycliffe Live! Covid-19 hasn't hindered these webinars, but has only led the team to increase the webinars from twice a month to about twice a week. We've had great responses to these.

Explore Wycliffe Live! brings stories from Wycliffe missionaries serving around the world. You can join these [live interactive events](#) via Zoom to learn about the roles, the countries, and the people involved in the global Bible translation movement by clicking <https://www.wycliffe.org/events>.

Hear stories of God's faithfulness, learn what daily life is like, and discussions on important topics like finances, children's education, the role of suffering, and spiritual disciplines. Click [here](#) for previously recorded webinars.

A new project I've gotten involved with is helping to check audio versions of Scripture for languages spoken in Africa. These will be uploaded to websites and can then be downloaded to a cell phone, making Scripture available to many more people than just a printed version. A sample is below.

< Rm zana 1 >

Label	Phrase	Start Time	Move Back	Move Forward
1a	Mə mugga,	0:07.00	←	→
1b	Pol,	0:08.24	←	→
1c	Krista Yeezuu zibənyɪ m mə m,	0:09.12	←	→
1d	mə t ci naa do ba awə ma.	0:12.02	←	→
1e	Woso mə bir ku m m ba a zibəzzaa,	0:13.80	←	→
1f	a mə bə u m h,	0:17.08	←	→
1g	K'a mə nyə ku m aa lemim nyunta bi pa da.	0:19.94	←	→
2a	Lemim nyunta bi do Woso nyunta an a ler bə tee... Wosoci nə u,	0:23.04	←	→
2b	a lesinnisorazanna le m bi.	0:27.52	←	→
3a	Lemim nyunta bi do bi,	0:29.50	←	→
3b	a Nyɪ Yeezuu Krista,	0:31.92	←	→
3c	wə Zuuba bi mim an n'a dundam.	0:33.12	←	→
3d	K'a mesim nə u ni,	0:35.00	←	→
3e	David do goaa m.	0:37.16	←	→
4a	Bi,	0:39.36	←	→
4b	ku *Sent-Espri zibə ni,	0:39.72	←	→

Normal 0:00 / 6:52

Many of us enjoy having a Bible app on our phones. For us, a Bible app is convenient. For other people groups, it's critical. Reading the Bible requires a pretty high level of literacy. Many people groups have relied on oral methods of communicating for their whole history and prefer listening over reading. The elderly often find reading especially challenging. In contrast to these challenges, the recorded Word of God is immediately understandable and accessible.

The app also synchronizes audio recordings with the text on screen so that each verse or phrase is highlighted as the audio plays. This is a powerful feature for those learning to read in their language. God's Word transforms lives, so we want to make it available however we can, using all the tools God has provided.



My role in this process? We wouldn't want the app to play the audio of one verse while it shows and highlights the text of a different verse. That would be confusing. That's why checkers, like me, listen to every verse, fine tune the timings, and make sure everything synchs up. I don't speak these languages, but can follow along based on the sounds to check the timing. Once this book is done, it will be combined with the other books of the New Testament into one complete app.

This type of work can be tedious at times, but it's also very rewarding. I continue to be amazed at all of the new tasks God has given me to do to contribute to Bible translation, as my main job as coordinator for in-person events has been put on hold due to Covid-19.

Personal

My cousin and her husband visited me earlier this month, and we had a good time reconnecting. I played "tourist" with them and enjoyed a horse and buggy ride through our farm country as well as eating at some of our famous smorgasbord restaurants.

After they left, I flew to Arizona for my brother Al's memorial service. It went well, and there was a small gathering afterwards where people shared about what his life meant to them. Please continue to pray for my sister-in-law, Eileen, as she grieves this loss.



I hope you all had a safe and happy Thanksgiving, even if being with extended family and friends wasn't possible. I have so much to be grateful for, and I encourage you to count your blessings instead of dwelling on the difficulties brought about by Covid-19. God is not hindered by these circumstances and His Word continues to be spread around the world. **"It is the same with my Word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."** (Isaiah 55:11, NLT)

In Christ's service,

Janet

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Pray for:

Continued good health
Vaccines and cures for Covid-19
My sister-in-law as she is alone now

Praise for:

Safe visit & memorial service for my bro Al
God's many blessings this year
New contacts from virtual events

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