



Maiorano Minutes

Arriving Home from Mexico



Change in the Air

The calendar indicates that it is Autumn! Fall is our favorite time of year. Cooler days, chilly nights, and the fragrance of deteriorating organic matter bring back fond memories of walking in the woods of PA. Fall comes with massive amounts of harvesting. While many of the items in our garden did not fare well this year, we still froze many gallons of strawberries, raspberries, peaches, and squash.

Mexico Trip

Many have been asking questions about our recent two-week visit to Oaxaca, Mexico. We enjoyed seeing the sites and were encouraged by the work being accomplished there. We will share briefly a few of the highlights. We would love to share in more detail if you have interest, so feel free to call or write with questions. If you go to our website, on the home page there is a link with a seven-minute video that will show you some of our experiences.

The city of Oaxaca has about 400,000 people and is very colorful and diverse due to the multitude of indigenous people groups. Mitla is a town of about 15,000. It is a 30-minute drive southeast of Oaxaca. This quaint little town allows you to step back in time where the farmers still use beasts of burden to accomplish the field work. Most of the Mexicans walk or ride bicycle to get around town.

Mitla is where Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) operates the Jamie Torres Bodet Linguistic Center. This is where we spent 11 days observing and helping the staff teach and train the indigenous people during a linguistics writing workshop. There were eight different language groups represented. The class was taught in Spanish, and participants of the class learned how to write story books, letter books, games, etc. in their own village languages. They would then be able to take this material back to their villages and teach the people how to read their written language.

One of the books that they could then be given to read is a Bible written in that language. Linda supported the leader of the linguistic workshop by photographing the work that was done by various students. Jim helped the maintenance team keep the 40 offices and 29 apartments functional for the staff and workshop guests.

The Mexican President made a proclamation that all Mexican residents need to be able to read and write their own native language. This proclamation opened the door to use the earlier translation work of WBT and SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics). This work actually started in 1935 when Cameron Townsend, the man who established WBT/SIL, was given permission to document the 350 diverse languages and dialects in Mexico.

Enabling the native people to read and write their heart language is crucial for them to be able to understand the life-changing work of God presented through the Bible. The workshop did not use the Bible as their text book. Instead it equipped the students to become teachers in their own villages. They could use the teaching tools they created in the workshop to begin to create a literate society that would then have the opportunity to read the Bible translations that are already in place.

While the teachers teach using paper and pencil, the cyber guys are opening the door to HEAR the word in their language. Local languages are now being broadcast specifically to the village that speaks that language. It's not the World Wide Web, but these tiny modems broadcast all the material (majority of it being Bible) in that language to the village. These computer savvy people are making the most of "everyone has a cell phone," even in little villages that are only accessible by walking. It is just another amazing way God is using to get the gospel to the village and to disciple the new believer. We were blessed to see the work going on in this part of the world!

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God's Answers to Prayer

1. We asked you to pray for the teaching material (4 suitcases and a few other bags) which we took to Oaxaca Christian School to clear customs without a hitch. OCS prepares missionary kids to go to high school and college in the states. We praise God for the closed eyes and green light. Everything we carried slid through customs without question! We asked God where some of our classroom material should go. This was a clear answer and great encouragement to us that it went to the right place where it will be used and appreciated.
2. Part of the trip was to see if this was where God was calling us to serve. **At this time**, even though the work is exciting and the needs are great, we do not feel God is calling us to Mexico, but we want to remain open if that should change.
3. The trip was great in every way. We had the opportunity to rest, see some sights, meet some great missionaries who have served the Lord for many years, and learn about what God is doing in Mexico with WBT and SIL.
4. Closing the portion of the work we called the PTC Educational Ministry was a difficult decision, but we have felt at peace knowing that much of our material has gone to home-school families, OCS, other area teachers, and pastors.



They sure start them young in the markets of Mexico



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Please Pray For the Following . . .

1. We will continue to serve in New Mexico by leading Bible studies, counseling with people, and helping Kevin lead Bible studies and teach his people. We want to help Kevin learn to use all the tools available to take God's Word forth in English and Navajo.
2. We ask God for clear direction in where and what we are to do in the months to come. We have been too busy over the past months and years and many tasks have gone undone. We are now trying to accomplish all that has been put off, and while we accomplish that, to be watching for doors that the Lord may be opening to reach out to others. We have learned to step back and say the joy is in the journey. We know that if we are faithful to Him, step-by-step, He will make it clear what He wants us to do.
3. Pray for workers in Mexico. WBT needs staff around the world. The list is endless and can be viewed at wycliffe.org. Are you the answer to the prayer? Maybe you know someone who can serve? Truly the fields are ripe and the workers are few!
4. For Jeremy and his family. Jeremy and Aubri separated in August. We ask you to pray for restoration, healing, and change in their lives.
5. For JJay, Kevins nephew, as he returns to his adopted family for an unknown period of time.



Writing Workshop

Practicing with the "Big Books" to help people learn to read.

Just some of the material produced during the workshop

