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MEXICO MISSION TRIP REPORT

Romans 10:17 (NASB)

"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ."

Dear Friends of Galcom,

As you may recall, at the beginning of the year, a Galcom USA team returned to Oaxaca, Mexico to partner with Jim and Jamie Loker to reach indigenous oral learners for Christ[1]. During this trip, our team distributed over 80 audio Bibles and helped install a low-power radio station for a local pastor. God moved in incredible ways, so we eagerly agreed to field another distribution trip later on in the year. Grace Family Church in Tampa, FL joined our efforts to return to Oaxaca and provided a solid team of 6 people committed to sharing the love of Jesus and His Word.

Outreach Coordinator Hefziba Alonso, along with co-leaders from Grace Family, April Dean and Mauricio Chicas, led the weeklong trip to Oaxaca on September 17th. Reaching outside Oaxaca for the first time, the team drove 6 hours north to work amongst the Nahuatl people of the Sierra Negra and distribute 130 solar-rechargeable audio Bibles in their language.

The Nahuatl (Aztec) Indians are the largest indigenous group in Mexico. According to the Mexican Government, 20% of Aztec men and 40% of Aztec women have never attended school at any level[2]. Considering their education level, like many other oral-learning indigenous peoples, they lack the basic educational requirements of standard literacy-based discipleship programs. We believe neither language nor literacy barriers should be allowed to hinder or impede access to the Gospel.

Grace Family Church / Galcom Team Photo (2016)

Intercessors' Corner

Reaching Oral Learners in Mexico – Pray that…

- Supernatural health and protection over Bible translators & studio technicians as they live and work in villages they are trying to reach
- God will raise up readers to go and record the New Testament
- Stir people's hearts to go on an audio Bible distribution trip with us and partner alongside the Lokers

God's hand was clearly evident in the timing of this trip. Jim Loker introduced us to Arnulfo and his family who have been working as Bible translators in Oaxaca for decades. Not only did Arnulfo pioneer the Bible translation for 30 years, but he also oversaw and pushed for the recording process to happen simultaneously. Arnulfo and his team had just finished recording the New Testament in Nahuatl for the Sierra Negra this past July and sent it to be reviewed and processed. For the first time in our awareness, the translation went directly to audio recording *before being printed.* Once the audio was ready, a partnering ministry loaded the audio Bibles with this New Testament and shipped them to our office in Florida just two days before the team flew down to Mexico. The team felt incredibly honored to be part of the first-ever Bible distribution to the Nahuatl people in the Sierra Negra and even more so, to be able to partner alongside pioneers of the faith like Arnulfo and Jim Loker.

Arnulfo wrote to tell us:

We really appreciated the team and people that took time out of their busy schedules and spent their money to come all the way down here to Mexico to help us distribute the audio Bibles for the people of this region. We cannot do everything alone and it is nice to have extra hands and encouragement from other believers.

The people here don't read much, so it is very important to have materials in audio form for them to hear. People are already responding to the audio Bibles that have been distributed! Once they hear the Scripture in their own language, they don't want to give up their copy, but instead ask for another one in order to share with someone else. One man said, ¨I never understood the purpose of church and the Bible and why we were encouraged to go. Now, after hearing the Word in my language (Náhuatl of the Sierra Negra), it makes sense and I understand. Now I will go to church.¨ We are seeing visible changes in their lives because of the Word! The pastors in the region are also encouraged and excited because of these new developments and results. They are now more motivated to reach out to the people in their communities.

Thank you for coming and for your prayers for us and this region of Mexico!

As seen on this woman's face, the joy of the Lord is palpable when people first hear God's Word in their heart language.

Testimony Time

God appointments followed us wherever we went. While shopping in Oaxaca City, our team met Fidel who is a pastor of an indigenous congregation. When Fidel read our shirts he got excited about the possibility of reaching his own community with God's Word in their heart language.

One of Fidel's disciples who is fluent in both Spanish and the town's dialect is now in contact with Jim Loker and the audio technicians. As a result of God's faithfulness and the shirts GFC team member Mauricio helped design, God's Word will go forth to an entire village!

There is a real value in having team members distribute audio Bibles and pray over recipients. Please consider going on a future Galcom mission trip. Your prayers made this strategic and timely outreach possible and your continued support of this ministry is greatly appreciated. For more information please visit our website via http://www.galcomusa.com/.

For the Unreached,

Tom Blackstone
Exec. Director

Hefziba Alonso
Outreach Coordinator

1 See http://galcomusa.com/pdf/March2016Eltr.pdf
2 See *An Oral Strategy for Training Leaders Among the Aztec Indians* by Anthony L. Conner at http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1678&context=doctoral

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