

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 ESV



The Imbabura Quichua Bible revision committee at work,
with Segundo at lower left

Bible Translation Projects

Rick: In our last letter I mentioned the various Bible translation projects that I was involved in or expected to be. Sure enough, the Imbabura Quichua revision committee was duly formed the last part of April, including Segundo (whose native language it is) and myself, and we have been working hard on the revision, though in the short time allotted to it (about 3 months) it will not be a complete revision, but will fix the most notable problems and make various other adjustments.

The committee has been meeting every Friday and Saturday since May in the town of Otavalo, a 2-hour drive north of Quito, and we expect to finish in July. Because of Betty's major surgery in April I have not been able to be present for most of the meetings, but that is all right since I have been working from Quito on various global edits and on checking the spelling, while the rest of the committee has worked on other details.

As for the reprint of the Central Highland Quichua New Testament in a bilingual edition, we turned in the revised Quichua text in March, and in June we received back the typeset proofs, so it should be printed in the near future, which is very encouraging. Again God's Word will be made available for those who speak this language.

And the Central Highland Quichua Old Testament project continues, with Daniel sending chapters as he has them ready, to me and to the others who are consulting for the project.

Quichua Bible Study

Thanks for praying about our plans to start a Quichua Bible study. The two couples we mentioned in our last letter were excited about joining with us for Bible study, so we decided to try meeting in a shelter at the big park near our house. That turned out to be a really bad idea! It poured, and we got soaked just getting from our car to the shelter, and then we found that everyone else in the park had taken shelter there, too. We finally met in chilly circumstances under a bell in another part of the park. Even so, we had a good time singing Quichua hymns and studying God's Word.

A local church has now provided us with a place to meet for the Bible study, and we have met several times, though we have had to try a couple of different meeting times before we found one that worked for everyone. Also, the young son of one of the couples had to be hospitalized for about a month for a tumor on his arm, and we were able to visit him in the hospital several times and encourage them. Thankfully the tumor was not malignant, and after surgery he is recovering well. At our last meeting a third couple attended as well.

Health and Strength

As you can see, we have been very busy lately, so much so that both Segundo and I are feeling pretty exhausted, and

Thank you!

Thanks to our faithful regular supporters and in particular to those who have upped your monthly support, and thanks to those who have sent in extra gifts over the last few months. Our account balance has continued fairly steady, though we are still lacking about \$850 in monthly pledges. Please prayerfully consider if you can support us or up your support.

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we would appreciate your prayers for daily strength as we seek to wait upon the Lord and claim the promise from Isaiah 40 above! We want to visit city parks again to meet more Quichuas and invite them to the Bible study, but until the Imbabura Bible revision is finished we simply have not had the time or energy to do so.

Thanks for praying for Betty's surgery. Instead of simply removing a polyp from her uterus, the decision was made to do a full hysterectomy the end of April, and during the surgery the doctor discovered that she had advanced endometriosis, which explained the pain she had been dealing with for years! She is now feeling better than she has for a very long time, and we are praising God for this.

Earthquake!

On April 16 a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit the north coast of Ecuador, causing widespread devastation and loss of life. Even here in Quito it hit at between magnitude 4 and 5, a few houses collapsed in the south of the city, and many lost power. It hit around 7 p.m., and we ran out of our building to take shelter on the street. We could hear our whole building creaking for several minutes, which is quite an eerie sound! Thankfully our building took no damage, nor did the construction next door. In fact we know of no real damage in the north of the city. For more than a month afterwards there were numerous aftershocks, causing further damage and casualties on the coast. About a month after the big one a 6.8 aftershock woke us all up during the night, but it was over before we could react. The next day another hit while the kids were at school. Ironically, Nathan was watching a video about earthquakes when they had to evacuate.

So far this year we have been quite close to a major volcanic eruption and devastating earthquakes, but have not been seriously affected by either, so thanks for your prayers!

However, the suffering on the coast has been terrible. Thanks to so many of you who inquired about our welfare, and to those of you who asked us how you could help those on the coast. The cleanup and rebuilding goes on, but it will take a long time.

Prayer & Praise

- Praise that we have been able to begin a Quichua Bible study. Pray that this group will grow, and that many would come to Jesus through it.
- Praise that Betty's hysterectomy went well, and that it relieved the health issues she has been battling for years.
- Praise that the Central Highland Quichua New Testament was revised and sent for printing. Pray that this Scripture will be a blessing to many.
- Please continue praying for the revision of the Imbabura Quichua Bible, that the work will be completed well in the short time available. Pray also for Rick and Segundo for special strength and endurance during this time.
- Please continue praying that our giving will remain strong. (See box on page 1.)

Cultural Closeup



Betty: Neither a pastor nor a priest has the authority to marry a couple here in Ecuador. If a couple wants to get married, they first need to go to a government office and do the legal paperwork and take their vows there. That is the moment they are legally married. Many couples follow this with a church wedding.

However, we went to a wedding this past week where the couple decided not to do the church wedding. About 30 family members and friends crowded into the small government office to hear the couple take their vows before the judge. The best man and the maid of honor signed the paperwork, as did the couple and the judge. Outside in the hallway was a photo background, so they took photos there. Then we went to the groom's family's house for a big lunch.

I suppose that it is very rare for a bride or groom to be left at the altar in church in Ecuador. After all, you can't change your mind last minute if you're already married!

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Our newsletters: www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.