



Fall 2017

from: John and Donna Kreutz
Serving the Guevea Zapotecs
of southern Mexico



Recording in L's house, April

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

Ps. 46:1

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest
on us;*

*establish the work of our hands
for us—*

yes, establish the work of our hands.

Ps. 90:17



Outside of L's, after quake

Dear Friends and Family,

We intended to send a letter while we were in the USA this summer for family events and property maintenance; but although we had this letter about ready to print, we had a printer glitch and ran out of time. So, here we are back in Oaxaca and hoping to get this to you soon.

Earthquake report: As many of you already know, Guevea, like many other cities and towns in the isthmus region in southern Mexico, was severely affected by the 8.1 quake just before midnight on Sept. 7, and again by the 6.1 quake on Sept. 23. They also felt the 7.1 quake with epicenter closer to Mexico City and have experienced significant aftershocks, which has kept people on edge. Two close relatives of our coworker Nic died in the first quake. At the time of the earthquakes, Donna was still in Oregon and John was back in Oaxaca near our translation center in Mitla. John was awakened, in Mitla, by the 8.1 quake and went outdoors, but buildings did not fall there and he is fine. However, two men from Guevea were working with him that week, and they had to return to Guevea the next day to check on family.

As seen in the photos above, last April we recorded parts of the New Testament (NT) in the house that now stands in the ruins of houses that fell from uphill and next door. We heard that about 40% of homes in Guevea fell or are now uninhabitable, with significant damage in other, smaller communities where Guevea Zapotec is also spoken. We are thankful that our village home and others in our neighborhood are still standing, but our hearts ache for the losses suffered by the many who don't have the resources to rebuild without help from government programs, which has been promised. But, because they live far from the urban areas that were harder hit, it's likely it will take patience and persistence for them to be able to claim assistance. Even clean-up will be a big job, since many homes are situated where heavy equipment and trucks cannot get in to pick up and carry rubble away. With so many needs in our world today, thank you for keeping the Guevea Zapotecs in your thoughts and prayers.

Remembering loved ones: In May, John's sister Carol lost her battle of many years with cancer. John made a special trip to visit her in Dec. 2012, at which time we requested your prayers for her and her health, as she was not expected to live much longer. Though we thought that might be the last time to see her on this earth, we were blessed by a couple more opportunities to spend a few days at a time with her and family, including last Christmas when most of the Kreutz clan was together in California. Carol is survived by her daughter Julia, son Alex, one sister and four brothers. Our hearts also mourn the recent loss of some dear friends, whom we have the hope of seeing again, along with Carol, in our everlasting home with Christ.



2015

There is some good, 2-fold news which we have been anxious to share with you:

(1) In June we were able to submit the Guevea Zapotec NT for publication! Of course, the publication process takes several months. It has now completed the manuscript editing stage, in which it was checked for consistent formatting, and the typesetting stage is nearing completion. These 2 stages have also kept Donna busy through the summer, answering questions and checking over each book after typesetting. (These days the typesetter does not actually set the type in place, but using the NT book files that we have keyboarded and edited through the years, she sets it up with the illustrations, page numbers, footnotes, front and back matter, etc.).

(2) By the end of May we completed and checked the audio recording of approximately 65% of the NT with Guevea Zapotec speakers. So far there are about 9 readers/speakers (women and men) that have participated. We need about 5 more men to complete the final 35%. When John visited the village a few days after the 8.1 earthquake, he talked with some men who seemed to be willing if we can do the recording in the village. The audio NT will help people learn to read the printed NT correctly, plus it will make Scripture accessible to those who do not have opportunity to learn to read, due to age or eyesight.

Does completing the NT mean that we will retire soon?

Though we see that phase of our lives approaching, John hasn't yet reached retirement age, and we have some unfinished projects that will promote use and understanding of the NT that we would like to complete, as long as the Lord enables: A couple of Old Testament (OT) books and portions, a dictionary and grammar, updating of literacy materials, maybe dubbing of the Jesus film, etc. The change that we are planning on, probably beginning next year, is to reestablish our home in Oregon as our base, with trips from there to Mexico for village visits and to other locations in USA and beyond to visit family, friends and churches that have been so supportive of us and the Guevea Zapotecs through the years.



When will the Guevea NT dedication be?

We are hoping to be able to begin distributing the NT near the end of next July during town "fiesta" time, since the fiesta draws many to the main town. However, before we set an official date for a dedication ceremony, we need to have a good idea of when the NTs will arrive to Mexico from the printer and we need to plan it with the community and church leaders. Since Guevea is located in an area of extreme weather conditions, and because 2018 is a general election year in Mexico, there are some factors to consider before we can set a date for a formal program.

His and yours to serve in Mexico,

John and Donna

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