



Dillwen Cluster

2016 Final Report

“This is the best way to share the gospel because it’s simple. We’re teaching the pure Word of God,” says a Bible storyteller from the Dillwen Cluster.

Project facilitators, Bible translators and storytellers from seven language groups in Mexico — the Dillwen Cluster — have been working to provide heart language Scripture in the form of oral Bible stories. For five of these languages, this is the first Scripture available!

Eight language teams originally set out to join the project, and seven of those teams were highly successful! This was the first project in Mexico to try oral Bible storytelling, and it was a breakthrough that serves as a wonderful example to others.

The seven teams attended training workshops where they studied Bible storytelling and analyzed key terms found in Scripture. Stories from Genesis and the life of Jesus were translated, checked and approved in each language. All of the teams met their goal of translating 19 Bible stories, and some exceeded the goal! Two teams completed 21 stories and one team even did 22.

Now storytelling team members have begun engaging communities — and the results are encouraging:

- ✦ Community members are understanding God’s Word better.
- ✦ Many who had left the faith are returning to a relationship with God.
- ✦ People who don’t know God are responding in faith to the Bible stories.

The following are highlights from this exciting work.

The Love and Power of God

The Tlapazola storytelling team is thankful to God that the communities welcome them and listen to the stories — and they invite them to return

Fast Facts

Region:
Americas

Country:
Mexico

Languages:
7

Number of
Speakers:
118,000

Completion Date:
2016



The Nahuatl de Chiconcuautla team works on a Bible story



Eduardo and Hilario recording stories for the Amuzgo de Huixtepec

“We continue to tell the stories ... and people listen to them with pleasure!”

— Dillwen Cluster
storytelling team
member

to share more! People are understanding God’s Word as they experience it in the “flavor” of their own language.

“We told Jesus’ story of the Prodigal Son to a family,” said a Tlapazola storyteller. “They identified with the story ... [and] commented that this is the love of God — even when we’re disobedient and ungrateful, if we return to God, he looks at us and accepts us with much love.”

Another family is growing in faith as a result of listening to God’s Word. Hearing the story of the cross and resurrection, they learned that God has power over death, and they recognize his power for their life circumstances.

Jesus’ Example

An Amuzgo de Huixtepec storyteller shared the story of Jesus’ temptation with a man who had professed faith years ago but had stopped trusting God. After listening, he was encouraged and said:

“I’m going to return to seeking God again because if Jesus, being God, faced and overcame temptation, I think I must also do so. I have to learn to [resist] the devil because that story teaches that the devil flees when the believer is firm in trusting God through his Word.”

“We must rescue our language”

With the appearance of Bible stories in Nahuatl, people have become more interested in their language. They realize that their language has been gradually disappearing. A Nahuatl team member says, “We must rescue our language and conserve our cultural identity. In our church, the pastor and congregation have been translating hymns and choruses from Spanish to Nahuatl.”

For Prayer

- ✧ Praise God for helping the teams to translate and share the Bible stories!
- ✧ Pray that church leaders will welcome the oral Bible stories in the languages of those they serve.
- ✧ Ask God to continue using these stories to transform people and their communities.

Thank you *for you partnership! Your prayers and investment have helped to bring the Word of God — in the form of oral Bible stories — to the communities of the Dillwen Cluster!*

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