



Language: Panao Quechua

Speakers: 120,000



Dates: 2020-2023

Project Goal: Old Testament portions

PANAO QUECHUA (pah-NOW KEH-choo-ah)

AMERICAS — PERU

THE PEOPLE

Tica has lived her entire life in a small community high in the Andes of central Peru.

Like other Panao Quechua people, she learned the keys to surviving in this harsh mountain environment at an early age. Now Tica expertly juggles household chores with tending sheep — all while carrying a tightly swaddled infant on her back.

But ensuring her family’s well-being and safety extends beyond the physical realm.

For instance, before her son was born, Tica knit him a *chuspa*, an amulet to guard against danger and sickness. She also makes regular offerings to the spirits of the surrounding mountains. As she often warns her children, “They are the powerful ones of the earth. They must be appeased.”

This story is based on everyday realities that many Panao Quechua families face.

Having God’s Word in their language will shine light on false beliefs and help people clearly understand the gospel message.

THE PLAN

Since 2010, Panao Quechua Christians have had access to the New Testament in their language, using it in church services, Bible studies and other gatherings.

Now, at the request of local churches and community leaders, a team is working to produce Old Testament portions. In this three-year project, team members have the following translation goals:

- Finish 13 previously drafted books — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Haggai and Malachi.
- Translate Micah.
- Publish all 14 books in digital and audio formats.

Additional goals will encourage people to engage with Scripture:

- Create liturgy materials.
- Produce 11 stories based on biblical figures and events.
- Record 10 worship songs inspired by Psalms.
- Publish calendars with Scripture verses.
- Produce videos for children.

THE IMPACT

Years ago, Edwin’s *abuela* — his grandmother — put her trust in Jesus.

Despite this, some of her traditional Panao Quechua beliefs remained with her. “In her worldview, she still feared the mountain,” Edwin said. “To appease it, she would throw *ponche* (a beverage) onto the fire every year on her birthday.”

But then Edwin’s *abuela* began to listen to God’s Word using a Proclaimer — a digital audio player preloaded with translated Scripture. As she grew in her understanding of her Christian faith, her ideas about the world around her changed. “For several years now,” Edwin said, “she has not thrown *ponche* into the fire.”

The Panao Quechua translation team wants to see more lives transformed by God through his Word.

Will you join them in this important effort?

Your prayers and gifts will help the Panao Quechua experience Scripture in a language and form that speaks to their hearts!