



marhenke markings



Hot Springs Village, AR

July 2019

“To the ends of the earth . . .” Acts 13:47

Bible translation work among the some 25 Mayan languages in Guatemala began in the 1950s, and continued in the 60s, 70s, and 80s, as one by one the teams of translators were assigned to each variety of the Mayan language family. The people of Cunén looked on as neighboring villages received God’s Word in their heart languages a little at a time, always wondering “why hasn’t someone come to our town? We speak differently than each of these other groups!”

Finally, in 1992 we moved to Cunén, El Quiché, Guatemala and began the long process of language analysis, eventually translating the whole New Testament for this unique language group. In 2013 the New Testament was dedicated and made available to the Cuenteco people. Not long after, reading classes began, the New Testament was professionally recorded and distributed, followed by the dubbing and showings of the *Jesus* film. Recently, hymnals in the Cuenteco language were published!

Reception of the Word in the heart language of the Cuentecos has been enthusiastic; with outreaches focusing largely on the county seat, the town of Cunén itself. Now we believe that the time has come to reach those who live in the outlying hamlets, the *aldeas*, as they are known in Spanish. The *aldeas* are “the ends of the earth” because of their remote and difficult-to-reach locations, whose residents tend to be poorer and more likely to still be monolingual in Cuenteco.

To that end, an outreach initiative is planned for the Cuentecos in the *aldeas*:

When: August 11 – 16, 2019

Where: The 15 hamlets of Cunén

- What:**
1. Show the *Jesus* film in each *aldea*.
 2. Distribute a Cuenteco New Testament to each family in the *aldeas*.
 3. Set up weekly reading/listening groups, using the **Proclaimer** solar-powered listening devices (programmed with the Cuenteco New Testament), up to 100 groups throughout the *aldeas*.

How you can participate:

1. **Pray** with us that the Holy Spirit will prepare Cuenteco hearts as they receive God’s Word in their own language.
2. **Pray** for all the details of this ambitious undertaking to come together wonderfully and to be executed well.
3. You may choose to **give** a donation so that all related expenses will be covered beforehand.

We will be gone August 8 – 18, and are blessed that long-time friends and supporters will be joining us on this journey. Please show your support by filling out the enclosed form, assuring us of your prayer support and by sponsoring as many Cuenteco families as possible with the gift of a New Testament in their heart language.

For correspondence:

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Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
E-mail: lsmarhenke@yahoo.com

For contributions:

Faith Lutheran Church
1196 Desoto Blvd.
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
Designate: Guatemala project



Widow Catarina Ordoñez (holding granddaughter) and family hearing the Word of God in their heart language for the first time, as son Miguel reads.

We plan to put a sticker in each Cunenteco New Testament distributed, indicating the name of the donor. For every \$10 given, your name will go on the sticker; as the New Testaments are placed in the hands of the people, your name will be read and the Cunenteco recipients will learn that you will be praying for them. We will record the name of the recipients and take their photo (if permitted), and upon our return home, we will send the name(s) and photo of the recipients to you as soon as we can.

Your support for this Bible distribution “to the ends of the earth” in Cunén, Guatemala will be greatly appreciated. Pray with us “that the Word of the Lord speed on and triumph . . .” in the *aldeas* of Cunén! (2 Thessalonians 3:1, RSV)

Translation of the Cunenteco text for stickers:

This New Testament in Cunenteco was donated by _____ from _____. They are asking God to bless you and that you will draw closer to Him, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, through the precious Word of God. To that end, please meditate on these verses: John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-10, Acts 4:12. Together with the donors, the team of the Cunenteco Bible Translation and Literacy Project will continue to ask God that your faith grow through His Word in your heart language. To God be the glory!

Our "to the ends of the earth" challenge

Yes, Larry and Sonya, I/we want to be part of reaching the Cunentecos in the *aldeas*. I/we commit to praying for the outreach before, during, and after it happens. I/we look forward to receiving the names and picture(s) of those who receive the New Testaments I/we have donated.

To God be the glory!



Here is my gift of : \$ _____ to sponsor _____ Cunenteco
New Testaments.

(Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church,
Designate: *Guatemala Project*)

Mail to: **Faith Lutheran Church**
1196 DeSoto Blvd.
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Your name: _____

Your address: _____
