

# BE ONE TOGETHER

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News from the Tyas family  
Serving in WA among the Hispanic community

November 2022

*From the Notes of Ed and Gerry...*

Our theme in November is Gratitude. It is also the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Be One Together.



We would like to tell you a story that is one of our very favorites and then tell you why.

One morning after praying for an opportunity to visit in a new home I (Gerry) started my day.

I knocked at a door of a lady that had indicated that she would love for me to come and visit. I then waited. The door was quickly opened. She looked pleased that I had come. I had baked some cookies and brought them out as a gift for her. I said I just wanted to get to know her better. We continued to chat and enjoyed doing a simple craft that I had brought also.

Knowing that she was indigenous from Mexico I showed her an app. that I had on my cell phone. I told her that this app. was an oral resource for translated indigenous languages around the world and they probably had her indigenous language. She picked out her indigenous language and we found that they had “The Jesus Movie” listed. I brought it up on her phone and put it on play. Her eyes softened as she listened in her mother tongue. She became excited as she said that her family and friends in Mexico would love to watch this. She found a button on her cell phone that said “share” and with one push she shared the Jesus film with her family and friends in an Indigenous village in Mexico. It was my turn to be blown away.



This is why I was blown away.



Many years ago I was a single missionary working in Oregon. I worked with a missionary family and we would go to the hills surrounding Portland. We would hold services in the temporary agricultural camps after people would come in from picking strawberries. This lasted for a month each summer.



Actually they would hold services and I would tell a Bible story and have activities for the children. I got to know a family that had several children. They moved to a house outside of a camp and I continued telling Bible Stories and had activities for the children once a week when I would go to visit.

One afternoon I arrived there to tell them a Bible Story when I discovered there were only 2 people there which was strange for this family at this time of day. Tony (the 12 year old) told me that yesterday Ovalinda (his 13 month old niece) had fallen head first into a 5 gallon bucket of scalding water while they were plucking chickens for dinner. He said that the helicopter had come and picked her up and that all of the family had gone to a hospital in Portland last night and hadn't returned. I was familiar with the hospital and immediately left.



For the next 11 days I remained in the hospital with the family. They along with the owners of that berry field set up camp in one of the waiting rooms. During this time I observed a family group under a great deal of stress as Grandma tried to discern why this bad thing had happened to them using cards and they looked for the child's spirit because it obviously wasn't with her. Some of their beliefs were coming through. They looked at life very differently than we do. There was a lot of superstition and fear to it.

It was during this time that I realized that although Christ was proclaimed some of precious people would understand so much better if it were in their native tongue especially those who were older or only spoke this language. It would then be in the language of their heart. They all spoke an Indigenous language from their small village in Mexico. Mom of some of the children and grandma only spoke this indigenous language and a young aunt (Ovalinda's mom) had great difficulty understanding any other language at that moment as she watched her little girl in a coma and lifeless.

After 11 days Ovalinda died. What a sad day for them and they felt much fear too. At the graveside they threw all of her possessions in the grave with her. It would have been a bad omen to give these to another child or mom because she had died. They did not want another to die. They threw her dolls and little toys and clothes into the grave. Then her father and grandfather and uncles hurriedly covered the casket with dirt.

It was during this time I was burdened deeply to pray for this family and all people who have no hope of hearing about Jesus in their mother tongue. They are some of the unreached people of this world.

I was praying for God's Word to break into their indigenous world. I have prayed for this family and all people who do not have access to the Word of God in their mother tongue to this day. Incredibly, we still have contact with this family. Grandpa and grandma are now back living in their Indigenous village in Mexico.

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We have applied and are going to Mexico at the end of January to participate for two weeks of a month long outreach to the agricultural fields surrounding Culiacan, Sonora, Mexico.

Gospel Recordings Mexico (Grabaciones Buenas Nuevas Mexico) oversees this outreach as well as other outreaches throughout Mexico as well as sending recordists into Indigenous villages to record Biblical stories that tell of the "Words of Life" in Indigenous language. Gospel Recordings is responsible for the 5Fish app which has Gospel resources on it that have been translated.

I am still blown away by the thought of this and how far the world has come in the ways of technology. Our goal in going is to work with them in whatever ways they need us to. We want to be servants in going. Also we think that there would be ways that we could strengthen our ministry here. There are people here who are from Mexico but have great difficulty with the Spanish language. We would love to give them resources in their mother tongue. First we need to know which Indigenous language they speak.

We realized recently that a burden like this is not a call to a geographical area but to a people. and those people are in diaspora which means the dispersion of any people from their original homeland which in this case would be their ancestral Indigenous villages.

The Culiacan Project is an outreach to agricultural workers, many of them Indigenous workers. During the day, preparations are made for that afternoon and evening. In the afternoon this group goes out to the camps in separate teams to give children's programs and some to go door to door diagnosing the specific languages. At night the Jesus Film is set up and shown in their specific Indigenous languages. "Yes God does speak their language." We are excited to be going and anticipate seeing the Lord work in mighty ways.

We ask for your prayer for this Outreach and for our involvement in it.

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