

The Aché People

Commitment or Abandonment?

Victor, the Aché project advisor, was reviewing portions of Matthew's Gospel with some Aché pastors who'd never read or studied the texts in their mother tongue. As they read through Jesus' parables, the men gleaned new understanding from each story. But Christ's words in Matthew 5:32 stirred up some controversy: *"But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery."*

"That sounded strange to the Aché leaders," says Victor, *"because separating from their wives is a common practice among them. This verse shows that the Christian boundaries are very high and sometimes hard to fulfill."*

Victor sees this verse as a watershed: some believers will make a solid commitment to follow God's Word, but there also may be *"a spontaneous abandonment of the faith from those who aren't ready to obey."*

- **Pray that many Aché believers will take God's Word seriously and that repentance rather than rebellion will be their response. Bible translation isn't an end in itself: it's the means to effective Christian growth and discipleship.**

An Arduous Trip

Several team members traveled to the town of Arroyo Bandera to test their drafts of 1 and 2 Thessalonians with the local people. They did part of the testing there—after an arduous trip—and finished it back at the translation center. They were also able to translate three chapters back into literal Spanish to prepare for the next step in the process: the consultant's check. The first picture shows a testing session. The second is a glimpse of the road to the town of Koentuwy; they didn't get to visit there!



Translation Step 3: Community Testing

The drafted translation is tested with ordinary speakers of the language to ensure that the meaning is intelligible and the wording flows naturally in the mother tongue.



- Location: Paraguay
 - Number of Speakers: 1,500
 - Project Goal: New Testament plus Old Testament portions, JESUS film
 - Year Project Began: 2004
 - Expected Completion Date: 2015
- **Pray that the team will find time to finish back-translating 1 and 2 Thessalonians into Spanish. This is an essential task to proceed to the consultant-checking step.**



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Team Approach Accelerates Translation

In the process of Bible translation, many books may be at different stages. While some team members work on 1 and 2 Thessalonians, others are beginning to draft the book of James. While James is in its first stage, the team is also revising their first draft of Acts. A team approach is an effective means to accelerate the translation process.

Human Ideas or God's Ideas?

Consider what Aché readers might think as they read these words for the first time in their language:

“Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

As they wrestle with new ideas such as the verses about divorce from Matthew and about prayer for the sick from James, Aché believers will need to make decisions about how to respond. Scripture calls for action, both from new readers and from seasoned disciples. It presents ideas and lifestyles that are counterculture to those of the world, no matter what part of it one lives in.

- **Please pray for the Aché people, for whom much of Scripture has been cloaked in a difficult language.**
- **Ask God to open the eyes of people’s understandings and give them courage and determination to live by His Word rather than by what culture dictates.**

Consider what things in Scripture are countercultural for you. What is your response?

- **Pray that as the team works on James and Acts, they’ll aim for both quality and speed.**

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