Greetings from Morelos, the Land of the Eternal Spring!

I'm happy to share what the Lord has been doing since my return to Mexico! By God's grace, on October 28th I crossed from San Diego, California, into Tijuana, Mexico, and flew to Tuxtla Gutierrez, in the state of Chiapas the following day.

The first visit was in Las Margaritas in Comitan, Chiapas,I was there from the 31st of October to the 3rdof November. Pastor Lino and his family, and church, were a great blessing. I was the only missionary invited to the missions conference, here the Lord permitted me to share my testimony and present my ministry in Bible Translation. I was also given the opportunity to teach classes for ladies, teen girls, and children, as well as conduct Q&A sessions.

On the 4th we travelled to El Censo, an indigenous Tzeltal community. Here services were conducted entirely in Tzeltal. This area of Chiapas is still dangerous, with some of the surrounding villages being communistic and anti-government, while others are militantly Catholic. In spite of this, the church in El Censo, has around 300 attendees, and has taken on the responsibility of reaching out to the neighboring villages, despite persecution. They send preachers to these villages, often at great personal risk. What a blessing it is to see them dare to serve the Lord, even in challenging circumstances!

I presented my Bible translation ministry in the Sunday morning service in Spanish, with the pastor interpreting, and also spoke to the children's church that afternoon. The children were the first in Mexico to support our ministry in Bible translation, and it was a blessing to connect with them. The people of El Censo have been kind and generous, especially towards the children of the Philippines.

That evening, I visited a small mission in Taniperla, where the service was also in Tzeltal. The preacher interpreted for me; I was also able to present my ministry to the children’s church and encourage them.

I also visited the village of San Jose, where no one had been allowed to preach the gospel for twenty years. It has only been a few years since this place was opened to the gospel. During my visit, I presented my ministry once again through an interpreter, and despite their poverty, the church immediately took me on for support! I also taught a short lesson to the children, even though maybe only half of them spoke Spanish!

The pastor, Bro. Jhovany Gomez, is the one who invited me to Chiapas. He and his wife are missionaries to Malawi, and he's currently pastoring the church in San Jose temporarily to gain experience. Please remember them in your prayers as they work in this difficult place, raise support, and await the birth of their first child.

On the 13th, towards the end of my time in Chiapas, Bro. Gomez arranged a meeting with the lead translator of the Tzeltal New Testament, Pastor Herminio. When we spoke, Pastor Herminio emphasized the importance of formal and literal translation, which is also my conviction. His goal is to provide his people with a clear and accurate Bible in their mother tongue. His wisdom and experience were a blessing to me, especially as he sought to answer any question I might have.

I also owe special thanks to Veronica Gomez, who accompanied me for most of the visit and has become a dear friend!

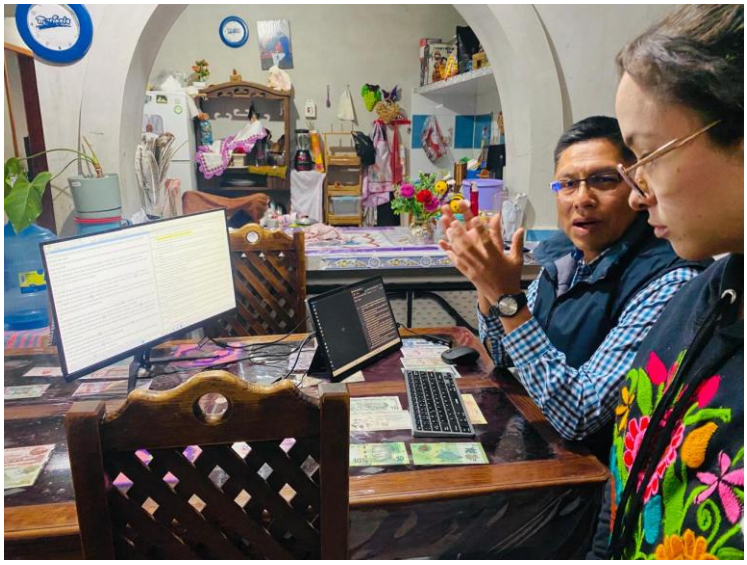
For the final three days, I flew to Tapachula, Chiapas, on a six-passenger plane and shared my testimony and ministry twice. After returning to Cuautla, the Lord has allowed me to rest and begin to minister in the church here again.

On the 28th, my father and I travelled to our state capital, Cuernavaca, to meet with Bro. Dante Gonzalez, my project director, in order to discuss the upcoming steps for this project. It is very exciting to see what the Lord is doing, but it is also a great responsibility for me. Please continue to pray, both for me and this project!

May the Lord bless you all richly in this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season!

Working for His Word,

Faith Duke



Meeting with Pastor Herminio



Speaking in El Censo



A Communist sign in a village in Chiapas



With the Children in San Jose



The Children's ministry in El Censo