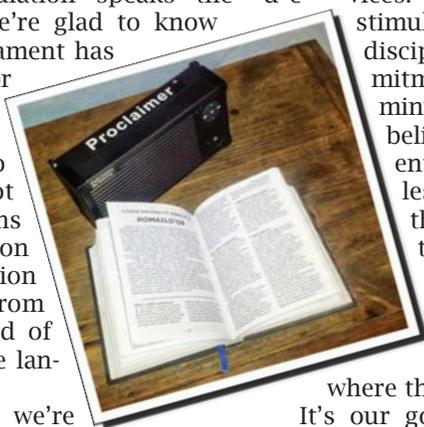


Removing Obstacles to the Word

We believe in the power of the Word of God. That is why, for us, the personal study of the scripture is so important and access to the biblical text is such a fundamental necessity. Here in the Yucatán, where almost 60% of the population speaks the Maya language, we're glad to know that the New Testament has been in print for several years. However, the majority of those who speak Maya cannot read it. This means that a large portion of the population remains cut off from access to the Word of God in their native language.

That is why we're happy to be forming a partnership with Faith Comes by Hearing, distributors of the Proclaimer Audio Bible. The Proclaimer is a device, that is able to reproduce the biblical text for a group as large as 300 people. That means that even the illiterate will be able to hear and understand the message of the Bible in their native language. Furthermore, the fact that the device a single unit, and that it is



solar or manually powered, opens up opportunities to transport the Word of God to places that lack even basic services.

But this partnership is about much more than just the distribution of devices. It is an opportunity to stimulate Bible literacy and discipleship. Through a commitment of as little as 30 minutes a week, a group of believers can listen to the entire New Testament in less than a year. But they're not only listening; they're interacting with the Word of God—recalling the stories and discussing their implications. That's where the change occurs!

It's our goal to implement these listening groups in conjunction with the churches that we are forming through our Jesus Film outreach. We hope to have our first batch of seven Proclaimers in use by the end of summer, with another two shipments to arrive soon after. It's our prayer that this device and this new partnership will yield much fruit in our effort to disciple indigenous believers here in the Yucatán and beyond.



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relate

In a house full of growing kids, we've learned that opportunities that aren't seized are often missed. Take this shot in the kitchen on a Sunday afternoon. It's a rare occurrence to have our three adolescents in the same place at the same time!



Speaking of opportunities, next year, during our upcoming itineration, we will have the chance to reconnect with you! Here's how to make it happen:

- Write or e-mail us with suggested dates during or after September of 2014.
- We'll confirm your request with a call or e-mail.

Equipping Leaders for Outreach

This April, we were able help send Andrés Vera, pastor and director of "Nuevo Amanecer" rehabilitation center in Tekax, Yucatán, to Mexico City to be a part of an intensive training seminar covering the Teen Challenge program. While there, he had hands-on experience as worked among those being served by the Mexico City Teen Challenge Center. He's come back ready to implement the program and train others as well.

Andrés' training also included certification in the "Living Free" small groups program. It is a tool that helps

pastors effectively reach out to families stricken by substance abuse, providing the ability to intervene even before resident care becomes a necessity. We're planning to provide these materials district-wide so that more churches are able to work to remove the obstacle that substance abuse so often presents to the gospel.

