



Update from Tim Curtis on weather, Makxawáya church and OT translation

October 2008



(Written in response to a request from Bob Lunt for information)



The people in Makxawáya put the section of **roof** blown off back on, in August, just a day or two after I went in with David Orrit and Rev Peter Hunter. They have done a very temporary sort of repair, with bits of sky visible from the inside of the church, and some of the wall near the roof missing some bits! The wedding on Sunday August 10th went ahead and none of the guests mentioned the roof!

Chris Hawksbee has been in Mak today with Caroline Gilmore-White and a couple from one of Chris's supporting churches. I think they were probably going to look at the church and see what needed doing. The people in Mak keep asking me when proper repairs are going to be done!

I shall be in Mak this weekend, taking young folk / musicians to a couple of weddings in El Estribo, weather permitting. Rain is forecast.

The good news is that we have had about **75 mm of rain** in the Río Verde / Sombrero Pirí part of the Chaco. Mak, El Estribo and La Patria have had considerably less. The translators all have water in their aljibes and everything is lush and green again in Río Verde. The mosquitoes are also out in force.

Now that we are entering the rainy season - and it seems that the rainy season is more or less on time - this could affect the part of the church exposed to the elements near the tower. The pews (really nice ones donated by St John's Beckenham in 2006 for the centenary) have been moved further forward out of reach of the elements. The pews are in very good condition and have been a great blessing to this well attended "most Anglican" of all the Anglican churches in Paraguay even if some services have a very Pentecostal flavour about them.

I keep several large display boards in the Mak church stocked with recent photographs of Chaco events, Old Testament translation news, pictures of visits to other Enxet churches.

Asunción Rojas has made a good start to translating Isaiah. The team had just finished checking Ezekiel. I have already checked the first two chapters of Isaiah individually with Asunción just in the last week or so and he has made a few corrections. In a departure from what we have done before, we went on straightaway to checking those two chapters with the team, and then passing on drafts to members of the church. In the past, I have usually waited until I have checked the entire book - or at least most of it - working closely in great detail with the individual translator, before checking it again with the team, and passing drafts on to others. Now I am finding the individual translator is stimulated into more effective and quicker thinking with the others chipping in fairly early on in the translation of a new text! Or perhaps the air conditioning is also helping them to be more alert! We do seem to have got more work done since the arrival of air conditioning last year!

There have been no major problems in these first two chapters. I am trying to remember what we did last week! I do not have the text with me now!! "White as snow" - I



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think Asunción translated this "white as a heavy frost". Obviously there is no snow here, but we do get some nasty frosts some years! *Yeyam appok* is the term for ice /frost, and which

they automatically used when they saw snow on the Andes and on the Bolivian *altiplano* for the first time on our trips to Peru.

Asunción opted for a more or less literal translation of "See how the faithful city has become a harlot" (1:21) rather than "See how people of the faithful city have become like a harlot / harlots" - it seems OK to personify here in Asunción's view. City/ town has also been translated literally before in the NT in previous versions and it is possible that people have grown used to this over time.

He chose, however, to use the word "people" for "nation" in 1:4 (NIV, for example puts "nation"). because "people"/"gente" /"pueblo" is actually what I think it says anyway in Hebrew (I don't have the text here). The word for "nation" in Enxet is used more to define a geographical area than a group of people with a common culture, language and identity.

With greetings to all!

Tim



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