



AIDIA PASTAZA | Peru

SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

Children in the Southern Pastaza community complete crafts during Sunday school programs. (L)
Northern Pastaza-speaking children hear the creation story in their language. (R)



STORIES OF IMPACT

A translator's testimony

The AIDIA Pastaza Bible translation initiative started over a year ago. Please join us in celebrating this great milestone, which your support has made possible. Team members are very encouraged by the progress made so far. Felix, a translator in the Southern Pastaza community, shares the following message with partners:

"My dear brothers and sisters, it is a pleasure to be able to tell you about the wonderful work we are doing with the team of translators. The truth is that we have never thought of being involved in translation work—much less translation work in our own mother tongue!

"This work began in February of 2023. For the team, it was something new. We do not understand how God brought us here to do His work. Thanks to God, this project is advancing without significant difficulty. We are very happy and content to do God's work. It is helping us a lot to understand the Bible! Translating verse by verse is even more rewarding and helps me understand in more detail the Word of God."

Sunday school teacher training plants seeds

Last quarter, the AIDIA Pastaza team held training for Sunday school teachers in both Northern and Southern Pastaza communities. Over the years, local Pastaza churches have struggled to run stable Sunday school programs. These training sessions equipped teachers to use discipleship materials with children. They were a great success. During the training, local children participated in Bible-based activities and teachings centered around themes like the creation story, the birth of Jesus and the cross. Approximately 130 children attended, and enjoyed songs, games, crafts and Bible stories. Praise God!

After being trained, Southern Pastaza teachers launched a Sunday school in the dining room of their lead pastor's house. This served as a "model" class based on the training. Sunday after Sunday, 12 to 15 local children gathered there. As teachers taught them about discovering God's love, their relationship with God and commitment to God, these children were exposed to the Christian message and even learned how to pray! Join us in asking God to bless the seeds planted in these young hearts and minds, and that many Pastaza children would come to know Christ through Sunday school programs.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Continued the revision of the book of Matthew in Southern Pastaza.** The consultant identified important issues with the first draft, meaning the team had to rework the translation before continuing reviews and further translation work. Though this shifts timelines, this is essential to ensuring the accuracy of the Bible for Pastaza people.
- **Facilitated a consultant trip to the field.** Translation consultants were able to go to San Lorenzo to meet with both translation teams, provide training and also give feedback on translations.
- **Resourced team members for language work.** Two mother-tongue translators were able to join a grammar course in Mexico, which they have continued virtually. The project coordinator explains, *"Learning grammar is helping the team to make a good structured translation."*
- **Built capacity in local churches.** In total, 75 Northern Pastaza and 35 Southern Pastaza leaders and pastors participated in leadership training sessions. The theme of training was "Understanding the Christian faith." The project coordinator explains, *"Many of the leaders had a wrong understanding of the basic doctrines. The training was a great learning experience and a blessing for the leaders."* Through these sessions, local leaders learned about these principles and were equipped to teach them in their congregations.
- **Held Sunday school programs in the Northern and Southern Pastaza communities.** Twenty-nine Sunday school teachers were trained to teach Sunday school lessons, and began programs in their communities.
- **Made impressive progress on Northern Pastaza Bible translation.** The team check of the whole book of Matthew is complete, and consultant revisions are in progress.



UPCOMING GOALS

- Complete reviews on the Gospel of Matthew in Northern Pastaza, and incorporate the consultant's notes.
- Begin reviews on the second draft of the Gospel of Matthew in Southern Pastaza. The team is hopeful that this draft will be more accurate.
- Move on to the Gospels of Mark and Luke. The Southern Pastaza team has already translated and began team checks of Mark, while the Northern Pastaza team needs to begin the drafting process.
- Conduct field checks, wherein native speakers of Northern and Southern Pastaza can review translated Scriptures. This requires long travel to the communities, as the teams are based hours away in San Lorenzo.
- Continue to resource mother-tongue translators through training opportunities and regular connection points with consultants.
- Develop hymnals in both languages. Both teams asked for such materials, and have already started compiling songs. Once finished, they will be edited and printed for worship.
- Provide additional discipleship tools and support for Sunday school programs in both Pastaza communities.



PRAY WITH US

- For forward progress on translation, especially for the Southern Pastaza team as they face difficulties with drafts and delays. May God strengthen them and empower them to press on despite these obstacles, and may their second draft of Matthew be successful.
- For our translation partner in Peru, AIDIA, and financial setbacks they have faced due to land taxes for their headquarter building.
- For the physical health of the AIDIA Pastaza translation teams, and for the welfare of their families.
- For the continuation of Sunday school programs, and God's blessing over the children and teachers involved.
- For the discipleship of Northern and Southern Pastaza speakers. May translated materials be used in local churches for the growth of believers and the glory of God!