

2009 Translator Guide

TRANSLATOR



Translator Guide

Translator responsibilities

1. You are a member of the team. Therefore, you are responsible to your team leader just as any other team member. Cooperate and work with him/her as much as possible. They will probably rely on you more than on anyone else, so do your best to support him/her.
2. Especially on the first day you will be the ambassador who must break the ice and get activities going. You can't be shy, just jump right in and help get things going.
3. In Mexico, you are really translating for two groups: your team and the people at the ministry site. Because of this you need to be sensitive to both groups. Use your own knowledge of both cultures to soften the rough edges. If you need to learn more about both cultures see our *Cross Cultural Partnership Guide*.
4. When working with the team you may become aware of a problem caused by some cultural misunderstanding. Work through your team leaders, and tell them what you think. Then let them make any decisions to correct the situation.
5. Work closely with your team leader. Don't stray away from the activities they have assigned you to. You need to be available at all times while at the ministry site.
6. Help your team members in any way that you can. They are lost without you and may need your help in every imaginable way. They'll be full of questions, so do your best to help them out.
7. Keep clear lines of communication open with both pastors from the USA and Mexico.
8. Be ready with your testimony, because there may be opportunities to share about your relationship with Jesus Christ.
9. If you have the opportunity of meeting with your team before the trip, you should practice translating with them. If you can not meet with your team before the trip, ask them to send you the stories that they will be using so that you will be able to translate properly.
10. If you are not able to meet with your group before the trip, keep in constant communication with the team leader(s).
11. When joining a team without having met them before, it is a good idea to write them a letter telling them about yourself. Let them know you are looking forward to being a part of their team. This way when you meet you will have established some kind of a relationship and they won't feel awkward with a new person joining the group.

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Translator techniques

Your best tool in translating is creativity. Translating is the art of conveying the idea of what the person is saying, yet being as literal as one can without deleting the message. These techniques will help you to achieve a better translation:

1. **Practice beforehand** the sermons, testimonies, stories, and Bible studies. This way you have time to iron out vocabulary and poor wording before you address an audience. Avoid using American expressions and more advanced vocabulary.
2. **Have the speaker use short, clear, phrases.** This is probably the most important technique in translating. You don't have to try and remember a whole paragraph. Use short phrases. It helps to convey the emotion of the speaker without long pauses. This way the audience can catch the emphasis of phrases and expressions.
3. **Just as you translate the words you must also express the emotions and expressions of the speaker.** Follow the speaker in putting emphasis on an important word and/or facial and body expression.
4. **Talk in the first person if the speaker does.** In other words, talk as if you were the speaker. If the speaker says, "I am glad to be here" you say "Yo estoy contento..."
5. **Be honest about your level of Spanish.** Before you translate in the service for the Mexican church, we suggest you speak with the pastor, explain to him about your level of Spanish, and ask him to speak slowly. It's good to communicate before each activity.
6. **Don't use American Slang.** The idioms we use in American slang make no sense at all when translated. For example, "What's up?" "That's cool!" Or, "I was totally bummed". Remember when you tell or introduce a story to not say "Cuento" because it's the equivalent of "Tale". So instead say, "Historia".
7. Sometimes a question will be asked to a non-Spanish speaker and as a translator we answer the question without translating. This may make the other person feel left out or useless so be considerate and keep the communication flowing between both people.
8. When the non-Spanish speaking people in your group are reading the skits, it is hard to understand because of mispronunciation. Consider narrating the story as they act it out, or, if they really want to read it, give a summary of the story right before the questions are asked.
9. When teaching memory verses, divide the verses into sections (ie. for boys and for girls). This seems to make memorizing easier and more fun.
10. When you translate, use interaction with the audience, eye contact and visual interaction.
11. When you need to share a testimony, use the *Student Manual* for your team to outline their testimonies. The focus in your story is not on you or your problems. Instead, the focus is upon God who put your feet on solid ground. Avoid the use of dramatic impact unless it is the core of your story. Be aware that the church you may be visiting may be conservative. Be sensitive to your audience. Try to tell information in a generalized fashion. For instance, "I had great problems in my family." "My family was hurting." Note that there are times when details will be appropriate and needed. Use good judgement based on context.

EVANGELISM RESOURCES Mexican law does restrict your ability to share the gospel, but as a translator, and with a Mexican citizen with you, you can use these scripture resources for evangelizing. Most of the time, you're the person from the team who will share the Gospel.

“Where to find God” verses

Matt. 6:6 - But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

1 Cor. 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

“Who are you” verses

1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy.

The Plan of Salvation

Are you ready to receive God's free gift? If you are, you need to call on Him in prayer. Or, if you need help in praying, you may use the following sinner's prayer if you truly make it your own confession.

“Lord Jesus, I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I know you died on the cross for me. I now turn from my sins and ask you to forgive me. I now invite you into my heart and life. I now trust you as Savior and follow you as Lord. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

Did you ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins?
Did you ask Him to save you?
Did you give Jesus complete control of your life?

If so, welcome to God's family!
Why not pause for a moment and thank Him for saving you.

What does Jesus want you to do now?

First, He wants you to have assurance of your salvation. You can be certain you have eternal life:

1. Because you have been born again. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. Because of your commitment. You did what the Bible told you to do. (See Romans 10:13).
3. Because of God's witness. (See 1 John 5:11-13)
4. Because of God's promise. (See John 5:24)

Second, as evidence of giving Jesus control of your life, He wants you to publicly confess Him and follow Him in baptism and Church membership. The bible says, “Those who had received His word were baptized; and...the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:41-47).

Third, Jesus wants you to grow into a strong faithful disciple. The Bible says, “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word that by it you may grow in respect to salvation (1 Peter 2:2-3).

There are four absolutes in growth:

1. Food. Spiritual food is God's Word (the Bible). You should read it, study it, memorize it, practice it, and hear it taught and preached.
2. Breathing. Spiritual breathing is prayer. Spend time every day talking to God about everything you do; about your needs and problems; about family and friends; and tell Him how much you love Him and how grateful you are.
3. Exercise. Spiritual exercise means helping others, witnessing, giving time and energy to God's work, and being a living testimony to the world you live in.
4. Rest. Spiritual rest means worship: both in public and private worship. Rest means being still and waiting on God. It means physical and spiritual renewal.

Fourth, Jesus wants you to experience victory over sin in your daily life. The Bible says, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith” (1 John 5:4).

1. The Christian life is difficult, but victory is assured because “Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John. 4:4)
2. Even with victory assured, there will be acts of disobedience and failures because of your human nature. However, God has provided a means by which you can be cleansed of daily sins. His word says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)
3. So, when you sin, don't try to deny it or excuse it. Rather, confess your sin to God, and claim His promise of forgiveness.

Use this page to record responsibilities, and for note taking during the trip.

1st Ministry Day	2nd Ministry Day	3rd Ministry Day
<p>Assignments/Notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 am - Translator’s Meeting with the Mexico Outreach staff. • 10:00 am to 6:30 pm - Ministry • First, meet with your Mexican Pastor and your leaders to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Greetings Ice-breaker: how will you get to know everyone? -cover the Do and don’t list and logistics for Prayer Coordinators, Children’s ministry and Youth Sports ministry and Adult Evening services. (and any other ministry you have chosen) • Greetings Ice-Breaker: Relationship building with your Mexican church. 	<p>Assignments/Notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 am - Translator’s Meeting with the Mexico Outreach staff. 	<p>Assignments/Notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 am - Translator’s Meeting with the Mexico Outreach staff.

4th Ministry Day	5th Ministry Day	Debrief
<p>Assignments/Notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 am - Translator’s Meeting with the Mexico Outreach staff. 	<p>Assignments/Notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 am - Translator’s Meeting with the Mexico Outreach staff. 	