

# Higgins' Herald

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## Back to Ichan

This year we were able to go back to the little town of Ichan, in the northern area called the “Eleven towns.” This is where José Magaña continues to faithfully pastor the small church in his hometown. We had not been able to get there for the last four years, due to varying circumstances.



One year we were delayed by local violence stopping all bus service out of Morelia. One year we had to change our travel plans due to warnings of violence in the area by the US Department of State. One year José was travelling out of the country. And one year the road into town

was blocked by protestors. (This one key road into the “Eleven Towns” region seems to be a favorite for protestors to close down.)

But this year we were finally able to get back there, for a worship service at the church on Monday.



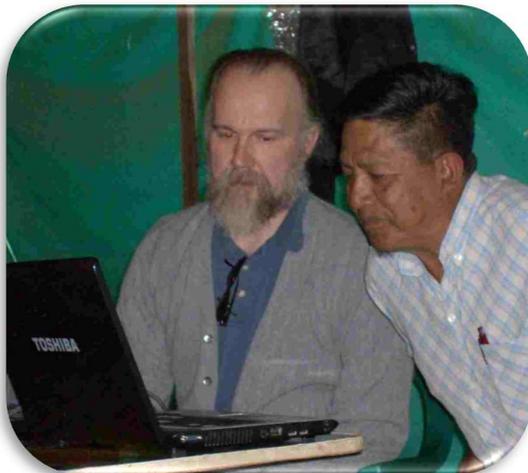
It was particularly important that we be able to get there this year, because earlier this year José’s wife died, after a long and very painful illness. We were able to spend some time talking with José’s daughter about their struggles, before José returned from work. Then we spent some time talking with José about his wife’s illness and passing. Though obviously still hurting, both shared their comfort and consolation in God’s love, wisdom and the presence of His Holy Spirit. It was

an encouraging time of sharing in fellowship and faith.



*José's daughter, though hurting from the death of her mother, still shines with the comfort of the Holy Spirit.*

Some years ago, we provided José with a laptop computer, equipped with the special P'urepecha font that Bill had created, to use in creating reformed literature in the P'urepecha language. This is the native language into which Dr. Max Lathrop translated the New Testament back in the 30's and 40's.



According to the 2010 census, there are 124,494 P'urepecha speakers, mostly in the state of Michoacán. Since Mexico's indigenous language law of 2000, the language has been granted official status equal to Spanish in the communities where it is spoken. Prior to that, the language had been in rapid decline. It was down to 58,000 speakers in 1960. So it is encouraging to see the language enjoying a resurgence, and to see soundly reformed literature being written in that language. Please continue to pray for our work among the P'urepecha people, and for the Lord's comfort to José and his family.



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