VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

Maná digital.net
...y les dio trigo del cielo.

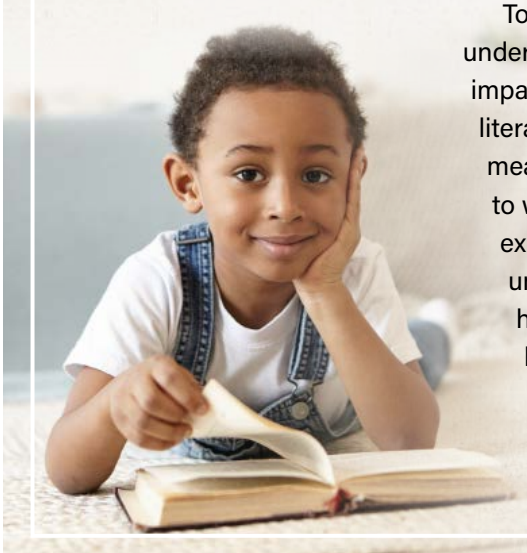
FALL 2020

THESE THINGS HAVE I WRITTEN UNTO YOU

...that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13).

For those who have grown up in North America with bookshelves stocked with hundreds of books, it may be hard to imagine living in a home that owns less than a dozen. It is probably just as difficult to really identify with illiteracy.

Imagine if your learning were limited to verbal communication, oral tradition, and personal experience? What gaps would exist in your knowledge database? What superstitions would you believe to be true? How much narrower would your worldview be? The ability to read provides the opportunity to receive a world of information that we would otherwise miss. The printed page allows us to receive and benefit from the knowledge of an author whom we have never met, or who perhaps lives on an entirely different continent than we or perhaps lived and died hundreds of years ago.



Too often we underestimate the impact of good solid literature. How can you measure the amount to which books have expanded your understanding of how things work, of how other people live, of nature, etc.? How can you measure the subtle influences your reading choices have had in your life, as you subconsciously absorbed the concepts presented in what you read?

Many of us have been blessed beyond measure with good literature, to the point of taking it for granted and becoming careless in our choices of reading material. This blessing did not appear by default; someone expended much effort and sacrifice to make it available. The book we so casually pull off our shelf is likely a result of hundreds of combined hours of a network of people including the author, editors, reviewers, designers, and printing press staff.

When I first lived in Honduras 18 years ago, the selection of good Spanish Christian literature was very limited. I am encouraged by the progress that has been made since then in the production of quality Christian literature for Latin America, but there is still no overabundance of good reading material. During this same time, this country and the world in general has also seen an explosion of digital communication which has given us an unforeseen opportunity to influence souls in otherwise remote areas.

As the battle for the souls of men rages on increasingly diverse fronts, may the Church of Jesus Christ continue to rise to the challenge to carry the banner of the kingdom of God. May we faithfully carry the message of redemption to lost souls, by means of the spoken word, the written word, and faithful examples of Christian discipleship.

– Jonathan Burkholder

PROJECTS

Maná Digital continues translating existing English content into Spanish. Your donations provide resources for us to translate books and materials into Spanish.

Ebook Translations

English Title	Author
(Where Has Integrity Gone?)	*Simon Schrock*
(Will the Theologians Please Sit Down)	*David Bercot*

Book Review QUE LOS TEÓLOGOS SE SIENTEN

"I would like to buy a study Bible and a commentary."

"Sure, we sell the Thompson and the Rainbow study Bibles. Which one would you like?"

"Do either of those have—what do you call them— those comments at the bottom of the page? Those comments are actually what I am after because they really help us dig deep into the Word and understand what it is trying to tell us."

"I am sorry but we do not sell any commentaries nor study Bibles with comments."

"Ah, that really is too bad! Why don't you sell those? I mean, commentaries are what Christians need to help them properly interpret scripture. You know, if you handled those, you would really sell a lot of books. Folks would come from all over to buy them!"

In *Que los teólogos se sienten* David Bercot does an outstanding job of showing what happens when Christianity places more importance on the comments of man than God's own Word.

—Ernest Martin, literature ministry in Huaral, Peru

Upcoming Audio Releases

Spanish Title	English Title	Author
Dios puede cambiar tu nombre	*(God Can Change Your Name)*	*José Adán García*
El reino de Dios	*(The Kingdom of God)*	*Jacinto Yoder*
Esclavo era yo	*(I Was a Slave)*	*Chente Mejía*
Morir es ganancia	*(To Die is Gain)*	*Pablo Yoder*
No me avergüenzo	*(I Will not be Ashamed)*	*Pablo Yoder*
Testimonio en cuanto a las armas	*(Testimony About Bearing Arms)*	*Omar Montenegro*
Por qué no usamos televisión	*(Why We Don't Have Television)*	*Tim Schrock*
¿Qué tienes en tu mano?	*(What Do You Have in Your Hand?)*	*Chente Mejía*
Testimonio de Omar	*(Omar's Testimony)*	*Omar Montenegro*
Tú tienes dueño	*(You Have an Owner)*	*Pablo Yoder*

INTRODUCING OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN

Glen and Margaret Bontrager and family live near Charlottesville, VA, since 2005. Prior to that, they lived in Costa Rica approximately 20 years, after they were married in 1984. Over the years, Glen has been involved in editorial/review work with Publicadora La Merced, Lamp and Light Publishers, Christian Aid Ministries, and Christian Light Publications and served as a Spanish medical interpreter for Blue Ridge Area Health Education Center for three and a half years. He joined Maná Digital's Board of Directors this past year.

WHY TRANSLATE TO...

Have you ever wondered why it's so important to translate good doctrinal books, story books, and articles into other languages? There are millions of souls that speak Spanish, for example, and though cultures may be so very different, we are more alike than we are different. We are especially alike in regard to spiritual needs because we all have a common enemy. We are all exposed to deception, pain, and serious problems that result from sin. And we all have a deep inner desire to be free from these huge problems.

Many books, stories, and articles have been written in English that deal with these problems in human nature. Many generations of Christian background and teaching provide a wealth of wisdom that are profoundly useful to both missionaries and the new Christians. God has blessed us with the ability to learn from each other, and as we do so, we can advance much quicker because we can learn from the experiences of others. God intended it to be that way.

That's why the blessing of quality translations are such powerful tools in God's kingdom. When missionaries grow up in any given culture and know the language since they are small, those good English writings can be translated and adapted into other cultures and languages in such a way that the sharing of experience and wisdom continues to flow in the kingdom of God.

The tremendous challenge in translating is to convey the same thought from the original language into the target language! I remember one time when I was interpreting a message on a Sunday morning when the minister said something happened "Snap. Bang." indicating that something had happened at the spur of a moment. How should I have translated that when there are no two words in Spanish to give that meaning? It's also helpful to know that "kids" in English can mean children or baby goats, which could spare a translator a red face and the need to correct a whole series of thoughts that were wrongly translated!

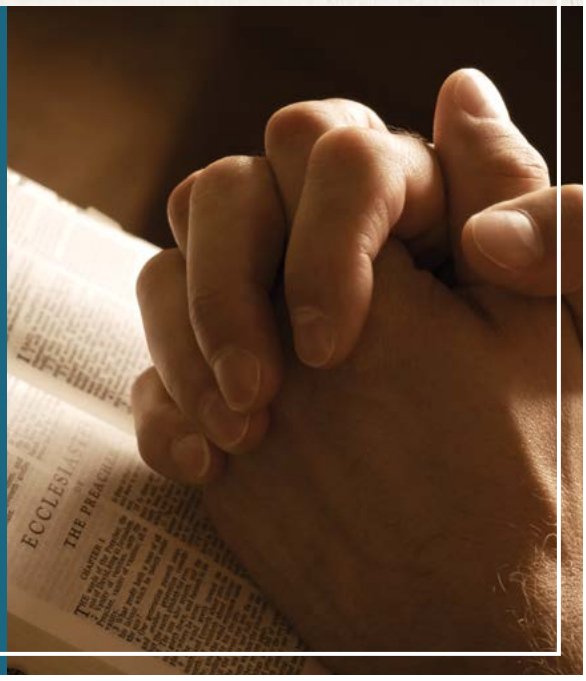
It's also interesting to see how "English" a Spanish writing may sound if not edited properly. Yes, Spanish words can be written in such a way that you can tell it was translated from English! So, after the initial translation is done, several editors will need to ensure the text has good Spanish grammar and make it easy to read. It's very important that the message flows well so that the reader can concentrate on the message without being distracted by something he doesn't understand or can't relate to.

We invite you to continue to write good articles and books in English and pray for the translators and editors that put that writing into another language and adapt it to another culture.

-Marcos Yoder

Get involved

- Pray
- Spread the word to your friends
- Use our material as a witnessing tool
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Offer to help in this effort
- Sponsor a project
- Donate funds
- Suggest translation projects that you think may be needed



Micro SD Card Project

Not long ago, an email thread was begun by some Anabaptist missionaries in Latin America in which we found an interest in using microSD cards to hand out digital literature, messages, and acappella singing. While CDs are still used in the US, they are pretty much obsolete in Latin America, which makes it a struggle to find a medium to hand out digital content. These microSD cards could be especially handy to reach people in countries like Venezuela or Cuba that may not be able to access the Maná Digital website.

The idea is Maná would buy these microSD cards for a low cost from a place like Hong Kong and fill them with eBooks, audio, and songs for the missionary to distribute. We could supply these microSD cards to the missionary for his evangelistic ventures. These may not be distributed quite as freely as tracts, since our desire would be that the person that receives a card would be genuinely interested in what he is receiving.

Presently, Maná Digital has begun producing audio messages to upload to Anabaptist Resources. If the project proves to be a blessing, and the funds allow, we would like to expand this venture, looking for more messages from among our churches and preparing them for the web and distribution on the microSD cards. We find there is also a need to produce more acappella music, including songs for children. If the Lord continues to open this door, we would like to produce more material of this type in the future.

-Jacinto Yoder

RECEIVE » If you or your church would like to receive Digital Manna's newsletters, send us your mailing address and the number of copies you would like to receive.

SHARE » Pass this newsletter on to your friends that may be interested in this work. If you wish to subscribe to our email updates, send a subscribe request to: *info@manadigital.net*

SUGGEST » Send your translation suggestions, or any input, to: *info@manadigital.net*

HELP FUND » Most of our translations are donation based. If you would like to help fund translations into Spanish, you may send a check to our mailing address. We will provide you with a tax-deductible receipt, and a detailed financial report is available upon request.

Digital Manna
PO Box 143
Russellville OH 45168-7501
info@manadigital.net

Maná Digital was born in 2014, with a vision to provide free Anabaptist e-literature to Spanish-speaking countries. Donations enable us to translate and prepare the digital eBook to upload to the internet, for whoever is seeking. This work is managed by a board of directors and a five-man executive committee. Our newsletters are brought to you free of charge, and you are not obligated to contribute. If you do desire to contribute, we will give you a tax-deductible receipt for your donation. We can also provide you with a detailed financial report upon request.

For more information, please contact us at: **Digital Manna, PO Box 143, Russellville, OH 45168-7501**