

# language & literacy



Santos's teachers in public school considered him a

**rebellious child.**

He often fought with his classmates and bullied

**younger children.** Santos

found public school difficult, and he usually didn't do well on his tests.

All of the lessons in Santos's school were given in the Spanish language, not the Mam language that his family spoke at home. His parents were not able to help him very much with his homework.

The Mam literacy program allowed Santos to learn in his first language and gave him an opportunity to excel. His teachers noted how, after receiving education in his own language, his attitude towards them and his classmates changed. He listened to instructions, was more obedient, and applied himself to his studies.

Last year, Santos won first prize in the Mam literacy competition held among children from many schools near his home of San Rafael Buena Vista, a small community in the highlands of Guatemala. One of the prizes he received was the Book of Genesis translated into the Mam language. Pray that the Word will touch Santos's heart, as well as the hearts others who read it.

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Turn on the radio and listen carefully to ten minutes of French programming. Discuss what you heard and how much of it you understood. What would your family's difficulties be if you lived where French was spoken but it was not the language you used in your home? Pray for children like Santos who study in a second language.

## family devotions - ACTS 2: 1- 13

Reflect on the miracle of verse 8—that God enabled each one to hear the wonders of God declared in his or her own language. Why was this important? Can you think of other Bible accounts where God miraculously influenced language? (e.g., Genesis 11)

### PRAY FOR

- ✎ The availability of Scripture in all languages for people all around that the world, and that the Word would act as a double-edged sword, judging the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).
- ✎ The success of education and literacy programs working to help people improve their social and economic well-being, as well as to understand the Word of God.
- ✎ Children— those facing difficulties learning or who are discriminated against because of their ethnic, linguistic or cultural backgrounds.

*For more complete project information see the CRWRF Annual Report online [www.crwrf.ca](http://www.crwrf.ca), or write [admin@crwrf.ca](mailto:admin@crwrf.ca)*