

The Pinotepa Mixtecos of Mexico



Enriched by its ancient cultural traditions, yet influenced by modern trends, the Pinotepa Mixtecos enjoy a rural life in the tropical region of coastal Mexico. Thousands of years ago, their ancestors were part of the Aztec empire — a heritage today’s generation still honors.

Despite the movement of younger generations to cities both in Mexico and the United States to study and work, the Pinotepa Mixtecos have retained their cultural identity through music, dance, crafts and song.

People in the villages typically work in the fields or as farmers, masons, merchants, craftsmen and artisans. These workers form the basis of a stable economy. The rainy climate also provides the people the food they need through their own agricultural activities or through commerce with the main cities.

Christianity was introduced into this rich tradition six decades ago. A New Testament was completed in 1980 but these people need the foundation of the Old Testament in their mother tongue to truly flourish and influence society.

Though almost all Pinotepa Mixtecos are identified as Christians through the official state religion, the majority still believe in the spirits of the hills and rivers, as well as witches and nahualism, the belief in a personal guardian spirit that resides in an animal. These beliefs encourage superstition and vices that run counter to the Word of God.

Primary Religion:
 Christian

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
 20%

Churches:
 Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
 New Testament

Population (date):
 20,000 (1990)



PINOTEPA NACIONAL MIXTEC HOMELAND



The Pinotepa Nacional Mixtec of Mexico

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Response to the Gospel

In 1947, the first linguist missionary arrived with a Spanish language Bible in hand. He gave it to a man who became a Christian and started sharing his faith with his friends and neighbors. Today, 40 percent of the Pinotepa Mixtecos profess to be Christians. These believers influence their community by preaching through their actions, drawing families to Christ and transforming lives.

Is the Word of God Translated?

Yes, New Testament, 1980; Old Testament begun 2012

Comment

Partnerships have been created between highly trained mother tongue translators, the local church and other organizations to launch the Old Testament translation project. This will bring new life and hope to a society still influenced by the spirit religions of the past.

Transformation is at the heart of the Pinotepa translation project. The church and translators alike want to see lives transformed by the power of God's Word as individuals and families begin to live an integrated life at the center of their society. The Scriptures in their own language will provide a foundation for Christian values and principles to influence society, making it more equitable and fair.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

Recordings:	Yes
Literature:	Yes
Films/videos:	Yes
Radio:	No
Bible Stories:	Yes

Language of Wider Communication
or Trade Language

Spanish [spa]

The Pinotepa Nacional Mixtec of Mexico

Group Description

Population all countries

World Population	20,000
World Population (Date)	1990 census

Geography & Environment

Location	Coastal Mexico Oaxaca, Jamiltepec district, Pinotepa de Don Luis, San Antonio Tepetlapa, San Francisco Sayultepec, San Juan Atoyac, San Juan Atoyac, San Juan Jicayán, San Pedro Tulixtlahuaca, Santa Cruz Itacuán, Santa María Jicaltepec, San Antonio Tepetlapa, San Juan Cacahuatepec, San Miguel Tlacamama, San Pedro Jicayán, San Sebastian Ixcapa, Santiago Pinotepa Nacional, and Tulixtlahuaca.
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Climate	Tropical
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Alternate Language Names

	Coastal Mixtec, Jicaltepec Mixtec, Lowland Jicaltepec Mixtec, Mixteco de Pinotepa Nacional, Western Jamiltepec Mixtec
Percent Monolingual	11%
Other Mother Tongues	Spanish

Linguistically Related Languages

There are 52 different Mixtec languages

Neighboring Languages

Several other Mixtec languages: San Juan Colorado, Jamiltepec, Chayuco, and to the north, Ipalapa Amuzgo and San Pedro Amuzgos Amuzgo

Economics

Subsistence Type	Farmers
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Comment	People in the villages typically work in the fields or as farmers, masons, merchants, craftsmen and artisans. The rainy climate also provides the Pinotepa Mixtecos the food they need through their own agricultural activities or through commerce with the main cities.
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