

**José Jiménez Borja, a prior assistant to the Peruvian minister of education, told this story at the celebration of SIL Peru's 25th year of work.**

"I remember the day Mr. Cameron Townsend came into my office in 1945. He presented the most ridiculous plan I had ever heard.

He wanted to go into the jungle with a group of linguists. They were going to learn the languages of the people, form alphabets, teach the people how to read and translate the Bible into those languages. He wanted my blessing on this impossible project.

Our conversation went like this:

***Mr. Townsend, who is going to do all this work?***

*It will be done by trained linguists—young men and women with college degrees who are willing to spend their lives among the indigenous peoples.*

***This is a difficult task. How many are willing to go?***

*None yet. But when I go back to the United States and challenge them, many will volunteer.*

***The jungle is impossible. How will you get those people out to the villages?***

*I plan to use airplanes to land on the rivers and airstrips that can be cleared in the jungle.*

***How many planes do you have?***

*None. But when I share the need, God will give us enough planes.*

***Who will fly these planes?***

*Hundreds of young people, seasoned pilots and mechanics will volunteer.*

***How many pilots and mechanics do you have now?***

*None, but God will send them along.*

***There is much disease in the jungle. How will you stay healthy?***

*We'll have clinics staffed by doctors and nurses.*

***How many doctors and nurses do you have?***

*None, but God will supply them.*

***Who will finance all this? The United States government? A wealthy foundation?***

*No. I'll go home and tell the people of the United States about this plan. God will supply. All the workers will raise their own support.*

At this I stared at the strange man and told him, "When all that comes to pass, come back to me and I will bless you."

He got up, gave me a big hug and said, "I'll be back soon."

When Mr. Townsend walked out of the door, I turned to my secretary and said, "Alla va el gringo mas loco que jamas he visto." ("There goes the craziest gringo I've ever seen in my life.")

A few months later, Mr. Townsend was back and ready to start. Now, 25 years later, all he dreamed has happened—plus much more. Only God could do such a mighty thing."

**Hi!** Likely you've heard this story, possibly from me because it's a favorite. Lots of reasons I love my job – I'm passionate about God's Word in every language. Thus, Wycliffe, an organization devoted to Bible translation: a good place for me. Also-ly (my three year old nephew's word) there's a history of blatant and bold dependence on God and a desire to maintain that same raw dependence until the task is done.

## HOWe THINGS ARE...

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### Stuff you could pray about:

- My finger to heal so I can use my right hand again. (tripped while running/broke pinkie)
- Patience while I wait for my finger to heal and deal with life left-handed and sidelined from running. Praise God for MANY helpers I've had doing all sorts of things for me.
- Sleep.
- Finances so I can pay bills associated with the broken finger and ensuing surgery. Listen to this: the hospital where I had surgery took 20% off my bill (Praise God). You could maybe pray everyone I owe would be so moved. :-)

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