

Dr. John Paul Daly

Went to be with the Lord on September 18, 2009 in Tucson, AZ. He was a godly man who was loved, admired and respected by family, friends and colleagues in the world of linguistics. He earned his PhD in Linguistics at Indiana University in 1963 and after which he began fieldwork with the Summer Institute of Linguistics in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. He taught linguistic courses at Oklahoma University; at the Colegio de México and the Escuela de Antropología in Mexico City; and at the University of North Dakota for nineteen summers where he also served as director of the Summer Institute of Linguistics for nine summers. For ten and a half years he served the Mexico Branch of SIL as Associate Director and as Director. During that time he was also Vice President of the International Board of SIL, Inc., for four years.

Numerous members of Wycliffe Bible Translators are engaged in Bible translation in every country where the Summer Institute of Linguistics is working and many Mexican linguists are also engaged in fieldwork due to John's gift as a teacher of linguistics. His ability to listen to discussions offering many different points of view and then to clarify the most important issue was unique and very valuable to the Mexico Branch. His leadership was invaluable to the Mexico Branch during the years that opposition to the work of the Institute caused many of its members to lose their legal permission to live in the country.

John married fellow student Margaret Holland in June of 1951 and the Dalys became members of WBT and SIL in August of 1955 at which time they requested assignment to work with an Eastern Mixtec group in Oaxaca, Mexico. In March of 1957 they moved to the village of Santa María Peñoles in the District of Etla, Oaxaca, Mexico to learn the language and culture, translate the New Testament, and write and publish teaching materials and technical articles about the language and culture. During the 22 years that the Dalys lived in Peñoles with their five children, Elaine, Beverly, Sharon, Carole (better known as Kelly) and Chuck, all of the children became well aware of the need of the Gospel message found in Scripture and it has affected their lives to this day. The first edition of the Eastern Mixtec New Testament was published in 1979 and a second edition in 2002.

Peñoles Mixtec has a very complicated tone system which John struggled to describe to his satisfaction for many years. In 2007 he published "On the Representation of Tone in Peñoles Mixtec" in the International Journal of American Linguistics, Volume 73, Number 2, April issue as his final description of what was described by Dr. Kenneth Pike as being "The kind of system that would have kept me from writing 'Tone Languages.' "

John is survived by his wife, Margaret Holland, children Elaine (Stephen) Elliott of Antigua, Guatemala; Sharon (Todd) Cooper of San Diego, CA; Kelly (Jack) Bradley of Tucson, AZ; Chuck (Christine) Daly of Waxhaw, North Carolina; 3 cousins; 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Mary Daly, and second daughter, Beverly (Tim) Barnett.