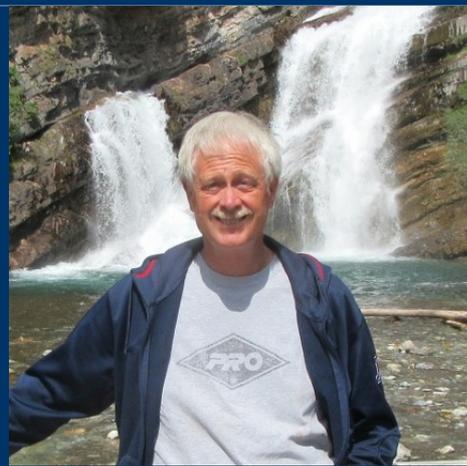


# Bits from Bill

Using Information Technology to Help Bring the Word of God  
to the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil

December, 2016



## *The Birth of Hope*

We are once again in the season where we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether or not he was actually born on December 25<sup>th</sup> is irrelevant; what matters is that he *was* born. And because of that—and because of his sacrifice 33 years later—there is hope for the human race in a world that seems crazier every year.

He is often called the Prince of Peace. This year, I am giving him a new title: the Prince of Hope. And as we celebrate his first coming, over two thousand years ago, let us remember that someday he will come again. And when he does, he will turn Hope into Peace.

## *Change of Leadership at Home*

The United States just had a presidential election, and a new and unexpected candidate won. Many people are hailing the election result as salvation for the country. Yet is it really?

While I do believe that God has shown mercy on America—and for that I give thanks—nevertheless the true salvation for our country will only be found in repentance and turning to Christ.

Please pray that as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Hope, that people everywhere would see him as the only true Savior of our nation—and the world.

## *Routine Tasks*

After the departure of the Linguistics students in September, the population at the ALEM base dropped considerably. In ways, I am reminded of the tourist town where I grew up, in Wisconsin; when September arrived, the pace slowed dramatically. Here, major projects were either finished or else put on hold, awaiting further funding. However, the routine, day-to-day work never ceases.

Even when there are fewer people, problems always arise that need solving. There is maintenance, both equipment that I can repair personally, and other items that must be taken in to a specialist. In addition to ALEM, I also make trips over to the SIL office in Anápolis, to resolve issues there.

In January, the slow period will end. In addition to a new group of Linguistics students at ALEM, the final module of the Mother Tongue Translator course will take place, and I will travel to participate in it.

## *Finishing Well*

The final module of the MTT course will take place at the same place as the other two, near Chapada dos Guimarães in the state of Mato Grosso. During these three weeks, the students will finish their studies and graduate—and then return to their homes to continue the work. The final module is always intense, so please be praying for all of us.

And this time, I will participate in a rather different way during a part of the course: I will be a student! There is a program which has been developed in recent years, which takes scripture portions and builds applications for smart phones. With this new tool—and the increasing use of such technology among the indigenous people—a whole new method of making God's word available has opened up. I am looking forward to learning how to use it, and how to help others with it.

So please be praying for all involved: teachers, students and staff. Pray that we would all remain healthy, that the equipment would work, and most of all, that the students would keep the vision for God's word in their language, long after the course itself is over.

## *Possible Funding*

I will end by mentioning that a possible source of funding for some much-needed projects has appeared. At this time, the ALEM administration is still working on proposals and other requirements to see about obtaining this funding. Please be praying for wisdom and guidance during this time, as this has been an ongoing need for a long time.

## *Helping an ALEM member set up a new computer*



## Prayer

- For a good finish to the MTT course.
- That America—and the world—would look beyond political solutions and seek the King of kings instead.
- For God’s leading and guidance regarding possible funding for ALEM projects.
- That I would be a good student while learning about the Scripture application builder program.

## Praise

- For the true Prince of Peace, and the message of hope and salvation that he brings.
- For the students returning to the MTT course.
- For the possible funding for important ALEM projects.
- For the slow period, in which I was able to catch up with several small projects.

May you rejoice with me as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and savior, and may 2017 be a year of great blessing for you and yours,

Bill

*And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

Acts 1:10-11

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