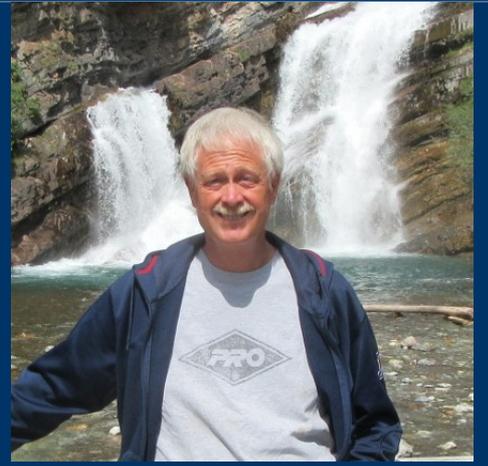


Bits from Bill

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

December, 2017



'Tis the Season...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Once again, we have arrived at the time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate it with parties, with decorated trees and wreaths. We celebrate it with songs and church services. And we celebrate it by exchanging gifts.

As we celebrate this special time of the year, let us not forget the most important gift of all. Through Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary, we have received the gift of eternal life. That means that, no matter how bad things may get in this world, we know that this is not all that there is. Someday, Jesus will return, and those of us who died believing in Him will be raised to life—and will live forever with Him.

Storm Damage

During the second week in November, a tremendous storm passed through the Brasília area. Many parts of the city were left without electricity for 2-3 days. Fortunately, the ALEM center was spared, only losing telephone service during that period. However, others weren't so fortunate. One of those was the church where I attend.

Afterward, it appeared that a cyclone—or maybe even a small tornado—touched down in the parking lot right in front of the main building. The building was rendered unusable. At this point, the staff is working on reconstruction, and we are holding services in the (undamaged!) basement.

ALEM Conference

From December 6th through the 16th, ALEM held their biennial Conference here at the center in Brasília. During this time, members from all over Brazil came to participate. While a lot of the meetings were business-oriented, we also had daily devotional messages, as well as reports from various translation programs.

On the technical side, this was a test of how well our network system could handle such a large number of users. While the system of access control worked well, and our current providers gave us good Internet service most of the time, we did discover a couple of weaknesses. One of my jobs afterward is to reconfigure the system, so that the next time there won't be any hiccups.

January in Brasília

This will be the first time since I moved here that I will end up spending January at home at the ALEM center. For the past six years—including before I moved—every January we held a module of the Mother Tongue Translator course. Because this is the time of year when students get out of school, this had been somewhat of a hardship for the staff with families. As a result, the next MTT course will begin in July of 2018, thus allowing everyone to spend the school holidays with family.

MTT Training Course

As I mentioned in the previous section, the next MTT training course will begin next July. As I write this letter, the location has not yet been determined. However, the second module—which will be in January of 2019—will be held at the Ami Bible School where all of the previous sessions have been held. This will allow me to transport the computers for the students in my car, since they receive them during the second module.

The third module will be held in Manaus, in July of 2019.

Blessed 2018

In closing, I want to wish every one of you a wonderful New Year. May 2018 be a year of great blessings, and a year in which the name of our Lord Jesus is lifted up and glorified around this lost and fallen world!

ALEM Conference



Prayer

- For wisdom and guidance for the new ALEM governing council.
- For the reconstruction of the church building where I attend services.
- That the upcoming year would be a blessing for all of God's people, and that the name of Jesus would be lifted up everywhere!

Praise

- For everything that was accomplished during the ALEM Conference.
- That no one was injured during the storm that badly damaged the church building.
- For the students who have already committed to being part of the upcoming MTT training course.
- For the greatest Gift of all!

Have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Bill

*Thanks be to God for his
inexpressible gift!*

2 Corinthians 9:15

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