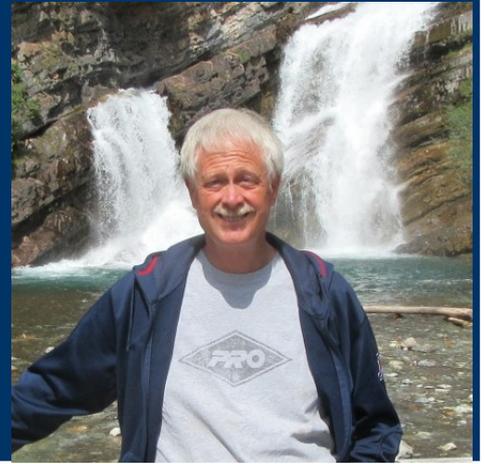


# Bits from Bill

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

December, 2019



## ***Back in the USA***

After spending twenty-one hours in planes and airports, I am now back in the States. It's a strange feeling. Yes, it's my home country. But I've spent so many years in Brazil that, in ways, it no longer feels like home. I'm sure that will change after a while, but for now, I'm definitely missing being "home" down in South America!

I am currently staying with family in Wisconsin. The first thing I need to do is to renew my driver's license, so that I can legally drive a car here again. After getting that done, I will hopefully have the chance to visit a few people who live in the region. Then at the end of January, I will travel to Tucson, Arizona, where I plan to spend most of my time until the end of furlough.

So please give thanks for a safe trip back from Brazil, and please be praying for a quick adaptation to life in the States, and for safety on the road as I travel to Arizona and other places around the country.

## ***ALEM General Conference***

During the final full week before my return, ALEM held their semiannual General Conference at the center in Brasilia. It was a very busy week for me! In addition to normal duties associated with the Conference, I had to continue with preparations for furlough, as well as provide technical service for some members who normally live elsewhere and were only present for the Conference.

One enjoyable aspect of the Conference was the opportunity to see ALEM members who live and work in remote locations around the country. Not all members were able to come, since some work overseas in other countries around the world. But we still had a pretty good crowd!

During the Conference, we elected new leadership and conducted other necessary business. In addition, we had a time of worship and a devotional message every morning. It's good to start the day singing praise to our God in Heaven!

So please give thanks for the safe travel that everyone experienced, both coming to the Conference and returning home afterward. And please be praying for the new leadership, that they would be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and would lead the organization in the direction that the Lord desires.

## ***Why Translate the Bible?***

We are often asked why we bother translating the Bible, when according to many people—usually unbelievers—there are so many other things that we could be doing for the indigenous groups. This time of the year is a good reminder of why we do it.

People need food and water. Without these necessities, they will die. People need clothing and shelter to protect them from harsh aspects of the environment. But the cold, hard truth is that no matter what kind of physical life people live, everyone will eventually die.

And after death, we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

No matter how long a person lives, eternity is infinitely longer. Therefore, the most important things by far are the ones that affect where a person will spend eternity. The Bible is God's word, revealing how a person can be saved and spend eternity in Heaven. So what could we give people that would be more important than God's word?

During this season, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us remember *why* He came to Earth in the first place. Let us remember that He came to offer His life as a sacrifice to save us from the eternal consequences of our sin. And as we ponder this, we will understand more clearly why it is so important that everyone have God's word in an understandable form that accurately communicates His message of salvation to them.

Oh, and Bible translators do not ignore the physical needs of the people that they work with. But that's another story!



*Devotional at ALEM Conference*

## Praise

- A safe trip back to the States.
- Safe travel for the ALEM members coming to and returning from the General Conference.
- For the coming of our Lord Jesus, who gave Himself to give us eternal life.

## Prayer

- Quick adaptation to life in the U.S.
- Safe travels during my time in the States.
- For the new ALEM leadership, that they would clearly discern the Lord's guidance.

May the coming year bring new blessings to you, and a greater knowledge of Him who is eternal,  
Bill

*<sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>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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