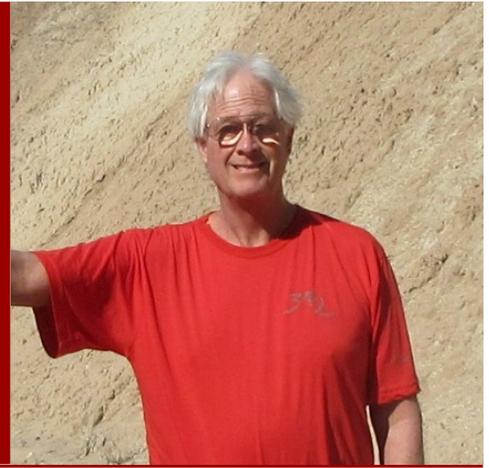


Bits from Bill

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

December, 2020



Merry Christmas!

Once again it is the time of year when we celebrate the first coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. More than 2000 years ago, He became a man, then lived a sinless life, after which He gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice for *our* sins.

And just as He came the first time to save us from sin's penalty, He will come again to reign forever as King.

So as we exchange gifts to celebrate the season, let us remember the ultimate Gift that God gave us, the one that opened the door to eternal life.

A Safe Trip to Wisconsin

I left Tucson on the 7th. Because of issues in certain states, I took a somewhat roundabout route during my travels. After spending four nights on the road, I arrived in Richmond, IN, where I spent the weekend with friends and spoke about my work supporting Bible translation in a partner church. It was a blessing to share about what God is doing in Brazil with new members who had joined since my last visit.

The following Monday, I made the final drive up to Oconto Falls, WI, where I will spend the Christmas holidays before returning to Brazil. After spending most of the year in the warm Arizona desert, winter in Wisconsin is a bit "different". But it's worth it in order to be able to spend time with family.

Returning to Brazil

It's hard to believe that my year in the States is coming to an end. But it is. On the 31st, I will board a flight to take me back to Brasília, where I will resume the work that the LORD called me to. I will be taking a number of items with me for ALEM, as well as a few personal items for colleagues. Please be praying that I would be able to get everything there without any problems along the way.

As I've mentioned repeatedly, we will be doing a major fiber-optic project in January. The purpose is to reduce the danger of damage from lightning strikes. This will be a good time for doing this; the beginning of the annual ALEM Linguistics course is being delayed until April, so there will be less demand on the infrastructure. Please be praying that this work would go well.

A Spiritual Battle

In my recent Prayer & Praise Update, I made a comment about current events. While some viewed it as political, it was actually meant to lead into the next paragraph, where I pointed out that our real need is spiritual. There is a great need for revival in the Church, and not just a revival that fills pews. We are in need of divine intervention on a level similar to—or even greater than—the First and Second Great Awakenings.

For a long time, we have treated the so-called "culture war" as a political battle. On the surface, it may be. But the real enemy is demonic—and can only be countered by spiritual warfare. And that is why we need a new Awakening; so that the Church would be armed and equipped for such a battle.

We do not know when Christ will return. It may be soon—or it may not be for decades, or even centuries. And while our true hope is in Heaven, we were also called to be salt and light in this world. So please join me in praying that our Lord would restore His Church to what He meant for it to be, so that whether He tarries or comes soon, we would fulfill the purpose for which He called us.

And please keep praying for all who are ministering the Word of God, whether at home or on the mission field. Because no matter what happens in this life, in the end it will be one's relationship with Jesus Christ that will determine where he or she will spend eternity. And that is the most important battle of all.



Sharing about Bible Translation in Indiana

Praise

- For Jesus Christ, the greatest Gift of all time.
- For a safe trip to Indiana, and then Wisconsin.
- For all the equipment for ALEM that I was able to buy before my return flight.
- That everything has come together at this point to allow me to return to Brazil.
- For the good opportunity to install the fiber optic.

May the Lord grant you a blessed holiday season, as we celebrate His birth and begin a new year.

Bill

Address for Correspondence

Until December 31:

Bill Penning
7916 Konitzer Rd.
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

After December 31:

Bill Penning
C.P. 6101
70741-970 Brasília – DF
BRAZIL

Phone Number (until Dec. 31)

(920)-977-7755

WhatsApp

+55-61-98222-4983

Skype

bill_penning

Email Addresses

bill_penning@wycliffe.org

bill_penning@sil.org

SIL Brazil Website: <http://www.silbrazil.org>

Personal Website: <http://www.thebilliardpage.com>

On-line Contributions: <http://www.wycliffe.org/Partnership.aspx?mid=BDADF4>

Prayer

- That people would receive the True Gift during this Christmas season.
- For a safe trip back to Brazil, for me and for all the equipment that I will be taking.
- For a true Awakening in the Church, that would restore it to what God meant it to be.
- That the message of salvation in Christ would continue to spread in this fallen world.

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son, and shall call his name
Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14b

Address for Contributions

Wycliffe Bible Translators
P.O. Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

(Make gifts payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators. Include a separate note saying "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Bill Penning, Ministry Account #232016.")



PLEASE DO NOT POST, COPY OR DISTRIBUTE WITHOUT PERMISSION