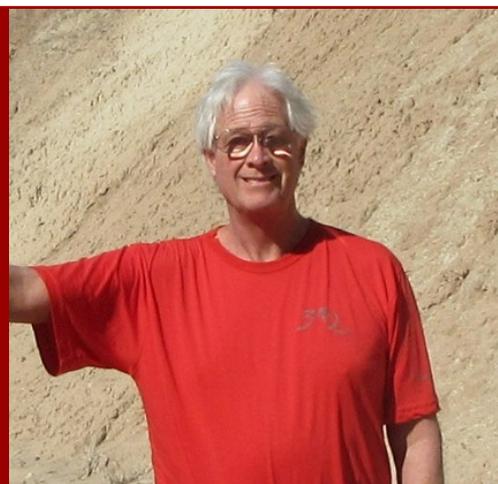


Bits from Bill

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

December, 2021



God's Gift: His Word

The word of God is a priceless gift. Through it, we have the absolute standard of His revelation to us. His word tells us who He is, who we are, and how we relate to Him. It sets the standards for how we should live our lives. It tells us what happens when we die. The word of God is a priceless treasure that everyone on Earth needs. Without it, we are lost, and as a popular song from the '70s put it, on the 'highway to Hell'. So please give thanks for this wonderful revelation that God has given us, and keep praying for those who work to bring it to people who do not yet have it in their language.

And at this time of year, we celebrate the birth of the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. As the writer of Hebrews put it, "God has spoken to us through His Son." He is the Word made flesh, who came to pay the price for our sin and offer eternal life to all who will believe. So please join me in giving thanks to God for this priceless Gift, which we celebrate at this time of year.

Finishing Some Projects

As I mentioned in previous newsletters and in some Prayer & Praise Updates, we've had several mid-range projects going on here to improve our network and server structure. I am pleased to announce that these projects are almost entirely finished. So please join me in giving thanks for this progress.

At the same time, we still need to install additional lightning and surge protection in our data center. At one time, we had the equipment. Unfortunately, it turned out to be defective and we had to return it. The manufacturer assured us that when a working model is produced, they will inform us. So far, this has not happened. So please be praying that this would soon be done.

Conference

ALEM recently had its semiannual Assembly, where members gathered from all over the country for a time of fellowship, business, and devotional meetings. Some new members were elected to the governing committee, and important issues were discussed.

Please give thanks for a productive time, and please be praying for our leadership as we move forward into the coming two years of work in Bible translation.

When Will Jesus Return?

This question has been on the hearts and minds of believers ever since He ascended into Heaven. Many have theorized, but so far no one has been proven right. This is no surprise, since Jesus Himself said that no one knew His return date except the Father.

These days, many believe that it will be soon. Maybe they are right—certainly we all hope so! But then again, He may continue to tarry. He has His plans, and they *will* be fulfilled.

I have written here before that Jesus is the one who is building His Church. Therefore, I am convinced that He will not return until He is finished with this 'project'. I am also convinced that building His Church involves more than mere numbers; it also involves growth and maturity.

Like any 'construction project', building the Church involves parts and phases. Looking at history, we can see some of them: the Apostolic Age, the Reformation, the modern mission movement, Bible translation, and more.

So what does this mean for us as believers?

First, it means that we need to each be ready to hear what the Spirit has to say—and to be ready to obey as He 'puts the parts together' to make the Church into the Body that He wants it to be. Second, it gives us hope. No matter what is happening, it all fits into the Lord's plan for His Church. And when He is finished, then He will come to take us to be with Him.

Therefore, let us lift our eyes toward Heaven and give thanks, and pray that the Lord would make our part in His great plan clear—and empower us to fulfill it.



ALEM Assembly Meeting

Praise

- For both the written and Living Word of God, His greatest gifts to humanity.
- For progress in accomplishing several projects associated with our network and servers.
- For a productive Assembly, and the opportunity to reconnect with members who live far away.
- For Jesus' great plan to build His Church, and to present it to Himself as a glorious Church.

Prayer

- For Bible translation as we and our partners work to finish the job.
- That the manufacturer of the protection unit would soon have a working model available.
- That the ALEM leadership would clearly hear God's leading for the coming two years.
- That we would all be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit as Jesus builds His Church.

May the LORD give you a blessed holiday season as we celebrate the birth of the greatest gift of all,
Bill

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2

Address for Correspondence

Bill Penning
Núcleo Rural Boa Esperança II, Chácara 4
Granja do Torto
70636-901 Brasília – DF
BRAZIL

Phone Number / WhatsApp / Signal

+55-61-98222-4983

Email Addresses

bill_penning@wycliffe.org

bill_penning@sil.org

Skype

bill_penning

Address for Contributions

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

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