

# Bits from Bill

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

December, 2023



## *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

You probably received this newsletter after Christmas, but even so, I hope that you had a blessed time celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. And as we celebrate His first coming, we can remember that every time we do so, it is one more year closer to His second coming!

## *Computers for the MTT course*

As you know from previous newsletters and updates, I will be heading over to Mato Grosso in early January for the second module of the Mother Tongue Translator course. One of the things that happens in the second module is that the students receive computers. This year we are doing this a bit differently; only the students who express a need for a computer will receive one. A number of them already have computers and are satisfied with them.

This year, we ended up getting 19 computers. I had hoped to have them in my hands by the end of September, or early October, but because of administrative issues that needed to be straightened out, they did not arrive until late November. Since then, my main job has been to set them up for the students to use. During this period, I lost ten work days because of the ALEM Conference, but I was still able to get them all ready for use. And since I drive over to where the course is held, I will take them with me when I go.

So please give thanks for the resources that enable us to get these important tools for the indigenous translators. And pray for a safe trip over to Mato Grosso in January, that both I and the computers would arrive safely!

## *ALEM Conference*

As I mentioned in the previous section, ALEM held its biennial Conference this month. This time, instead of holding it at our headquarters, the administration decided to have it at a retreat center. The food was excellent (I'm sure I gained a few pounds during my time there!), and it was a great chance to see many of the members who only show up in Brasília during these events.

The best part was the three-day seminar on unity. I have sensed for quite a while that this is something that the Church really needs, so this was quite encouraging. So join me in giving thanks, and keep praying that the Lord would bring about true oneness among His followers.

## *Eyeballs*

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, I underwent four exams on my eyes, with the purpose of first determining if I was an acceptable candidate for a cornea transplant, and secondly, to examine the characteristics of my corneas in order to properly plan the surgery.

I can now report that yes, I can have the transplant done. In fact, the ophthalmologist said that I really *need* a transplant. My corneas are in even worse condition than I had imagined. He showed me a tomographic scan, and they resembled the surface of an alien planet that had been bombarded with asteroids. It's a wonder that I can see as well as I actually can, even with Coke-bottle glasses.

As I write this, I am on a waiting list for available corneas. Fortunately, for the type that I need, the wait is only a couple of months. I also need to have a "risk exam" done, to make sure that I won't drop dead during the operation. That should not be a problem, but it is a hoop that I need to jump through. So if everything goes well, I hope to be able to have the first eye (right eye) done shortly after returning from the MTT course next year.

The cost will not be cheap. But it is a lot less than my active imagination had envisioned. And my health plan should cover 70% of it. A supporting church has offered to help with the rest. Frankly, even if I had to pay it all out-of-pocket, it would be worth it. It's hard to put a price on vision!

So please join me in giving thanks for the progress toward getting this procedure done. And keep praying that everything would go according to God's plan!



*Group Picture at ALEM Conference*

## Praise

- For the computers that we are able to provide for the MTT students.
- For a good time at the ALEM Conference.
- For continued progress in the saga of having my corneas replaced.

## Prayer

- For a safe trip to the MTT course in January.
- For unity among believers, especially as we celebrate the first coming of our Savior.
- That the Lord's plans for my eyeballs would continue to go forward.

May the new year bring not only blessings, but new opportunities to serve the King of kings,

Bill

*<sup>10</sup>And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup>who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

Acts 1:10-11

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