

Bits from Bill

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

June, 2016



I've Got Wheels!

As you know from my previous newsletters and updates, I began the process of buying a car here a couple of months ago. What started off as a (relatively!) simple procedure—transfer money from my account in the States to the dealer's account here—turned into a month-and-a-half effort to try and get the funds here. Fortunately, at the end of that time, the money arrived, and I was able to go get my car.

It is a 2009 Honda Civic with less than 70,000 km on it, and in pretty good condition. I've already taken it on a short trip to Anápolis to pick up a few items and give some technical help. And I am planning to drive it to our Conference at the end of this month, and then to the Mother Tongue Translator (MTT) course in July.

So please join me in giving thanks to God for the provision of this vitally important vehicle.

Conference

Once again, it's time for our annual SIL Brazil Conference. In the past, Conference used to last 10 days, with a lot of the time spent in business meetings. With our reduction in size, these days business can be taken care of much more quickly, leaving time for more inspirational events, even with the current shorter time frame.

In addition to motivational sessions, our translators will give reports about progress in their programs. It is always an inspiration to hear what God has been doing in the details of bringing His word to different groups of people. And it is a chance to see SIL members that work in other parts of this huge country, people that I rarely get to see otherwise.

And, of course, there is also Fun Night!

Mother Tongue Translator Course

As I mentioned, I will be driving to the MTT course in July. Since I will be able to take the computers for the students, we will not need to find another way to ship them, which will simplify matters. The computers are ready; office and translation software has been installed, along with the indigenous keyboard layout.

During this module, the students will learn to use these machines in the translation process. Special software allows users to enter Scripture text, making sure that all chapters and verses are present, as well as providing other checking tools to ensure accuracy and consistency. Do keep praying!

More ALEM Projects

As I've mentioned in previous newsletters and updates, I've been working on improvements in the ALEM network wiring, as well as the main network computers. Some of that has been completed. We now have a more reliable gateway computer in place, and a new server is ready to go. Some of the wiring has been done as well.

While I was in the midst of these projects, it became clear that the internal phone system was failing completely and needed replacement. Fortunately, we had a phone system computer left over from the SIL office that was no longer being used, and I have been able to adapt it to serve here. However, like the network wiring, the phone wiring is also in need of work.

At this point, we are waiting for the arrival of a piece of equipment that will provide service for 32 internal extensions. Furthermore, we also need to do some major work on the multi-pair cable which connects outlying buildings to the phone system. Please keep these projects in prayer.

Phone Number Changed

If you look at my phone number at the bottom of the second page, you will now see an extra "9". This is a general change that was made in several states and the Federal District. All cell phone numbers now begin with 9 in these areas.

My new car, a 2009 Honda Civic



Prayer

- For our upcoming SIL Brazil Conference.
- For the upcoming Mother Tongue Translator course.
- For all the work that still needs to be done here at the ALEM base.
- For safety in travel, both to Conference and the MTT course.

Praise

- Finally getting my car!
- Progress on the network restructuring.
- Getting all of the computers ready for the MTT course.
- Getting my house pretty well set up.
- Good, supportive colleagues here at the ALEM center.

May the LORD continue to reveal Himself to you every day, as you walk with Him,

Bill

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

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