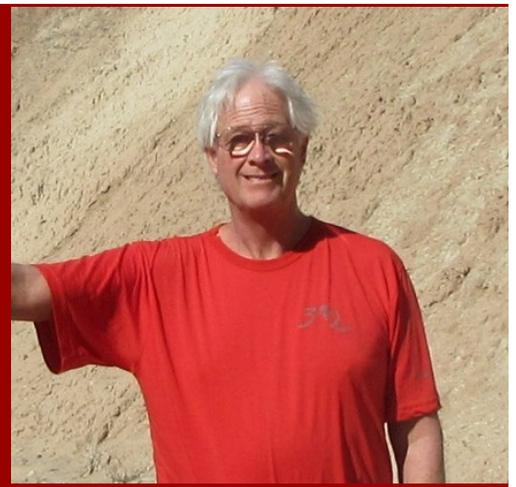


Bits from Bill

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

June, 2021



Things Happening

As I write this, the year is nearly half over. Sometimes it feels like only yesterday that I boarded the plane to begin my return trip to Brazil. A lot has happened—and I'm sure that a lot more is going to happen. Bible translation continues as the LORD works to make sure that everyone has access to His written word in a language that they can understand.

This year, there will not be a Mother Tongue Translator course. There is still interest, and the leaders are hoping to resume next year. Existing mother-tongue projects are continuing, however, and many are making significant progress. Please join me in praying for future MTT courses, and for the ongoing projects.

Network Protection

In earlier newsletters, I repeatedly stressed the need for installing effective lightning protection for the ALEM network. During the last three months, we were able to purchase protection units and install many of them. One important device had to be sent back to the manufacturer because it was defective. Fortunately, Rainy Season has ended, so we should have a few more months without danger from lightning, in which to finish the job.

So please give thanks for the progress so far, and pray that we would be able to get the remaining equipment and get it installed before Rainy Season begins.

Helping with English

Ever since I first moved to the ALEM center, I have continually encountered people who either needed help with English, or wanted to learn it. In past years, I often gave informal English classes. This year, it seems that the interest in my mother tongue has gone on steroids.

This has produced a change in my way of looking at it. Instead of viewing these requests for help or teaching as an interruption, I am now seeing them as another way to minister to people. They are not looking for help with English out of idle curiosity. Rather, they see it as an essential tool for them in their ministries.

The main focus of my work remains technical support. But it is important to be flexible; God often brings new opportunities to serve. So please give thanks for this opportunity, and pray that I would use it effectively.

Growth and the Body

We are all aware of the importance of spiritual growth as individual believers in Christ. We are saved individually, and someday we will stand before the Throne as individuals, to give account of our lives. But in reading the New Testament, especially the writings of Paul, it becomes clear that there is more.

The Church is described as a *body*. Unfortunately, in our individual-oriented Western culture, we do not really grasp what that means. This body is described as being made up of parts, each with its own function. We often even joke about it: "I'm the little toe." "I'm the large intestine." And so forth. But our understanding is largely superficial. And I do not claim to be an exception; I, too, am a product of our individualistic culture.

As you have seen during the past year, I have written repeatedly about the need for revival and awakening. Recently, I have become convinced that there are other aspects to what the Lord wants to do with His Church. And one of them, I now believe, is to begin to mature it as a true body—with Him as the true Head.

So how will He accomplish this? I confess that I really have no idea. But one thing I am convinced of is that it will be a work of the Holy Spirit, and not something done in human wisdom and ability. At this point, all I can do is continue to pray. And I invite you to continue praying with me, for revival and awakening—and for the Lord to bring His Church into maturity, according to His plans.



Teaching English

Praise

- For the Mother Tongue Translation projects that are continuing to make progress.
- For continued interest in future Mother Tongue Translator courses.
- For the lightning protection that has been installed up to this point.
- For the opportunity to serve by helping people with English.

Prayer

- For future Mother Tongue Translator classes, that they would take place according to God's timing.
- That we would be able to finish installing the rest of the lightning protection equipment.
- That I would effectively use all of the opportunities that God brings for service.
- For growth and maturity of the Church as a unified body—with Christ as the true Head.

May you continue to enjoy the fellowship of the Lord, and of His people,

Bill

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22

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