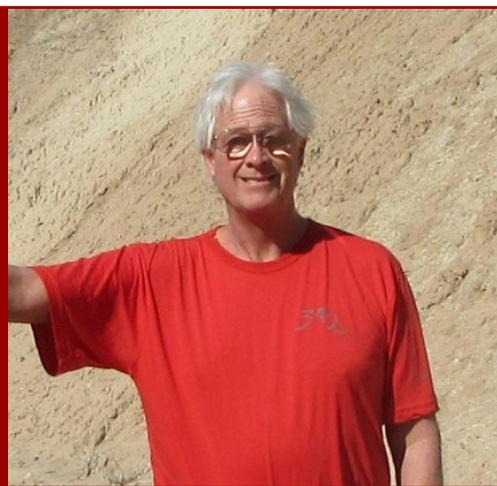


Bits from Bill

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

June, 2022



SIL Retreat

Every year, SIL Brazil holds a Retreat or Conference; which it is depends on how much business vs. simple personal and spiritual refreshment takes place. This year, it was a Retreat, but it was a bit different. In addition to an excellent series of devotional messages, we had sessions on culture and worldview that helped us to better understand some of the things that we encounter while living in another country.

You may be wondering how those of us who have lived here for many years would benefit from such sessions. But the truth is, there is always more to learn. And even though we may be well accustomed to Brazilian life and culture, it can still be helpful to understand some of the underlying reasons as to *why* things are different. And it is also useful in understanding the indigenous cultures in which Bible translators live and work—which are often even more different from our home culture than the national culture.

So join me in giving thanks for this time that we spent together, not only reconnecting with colleagues, but learning principles that will be useful in our work and life

Remodeling

The ALEM administration has recently begun a program of remodeling some of the buildings on the center. The first project was the dormitory where my apartment is located. Last year, the remaining eight rooms were rebuilt for outside access, and the central corridor converted into bedrooms for half of the apartments. This year, the work involved converting the common room in front into a laundry area, and redesigning the roof.

The timing could have been better. The roof-redesign was begun before the end of Rainy Season, and as a result there was a lot of damage to several apartments, including mine. But the job is now complete, and the result is a better building than we had before. The new laundry area is nearly complete. We also moved the wifi distribution point into a proper electrical box in the laundry area. As a result it is more centrally located, and better protected.

So please give thanks for the resources that made this project possible, and for the good final result. And please keep praying, since there is quite a bit more remodeling planned!

The Authority of The Word

For some time now, I've been emphasizing the need for revival and awakening. We are called to be salt and light; having a Godly influence and bearing witness to the Truth. But in order to bear witness to the Truth, it is essential to know what the Truth is. And that is why God gave us His written word, to serve as the authoritative guide for all truth that He has chosen to reveal.

A large part of the problem in the Church today is that many believers have rejected the authority of the word of God. Worldly trends—literally, doctrines of demons—have replaced it. A true awakening must include a return to the authority of the word.

Jesus made it clear that *He* is the one who will build His Church. I find this encouraging; no matter how things may look, I can rest assured that He has everything under control, and that His Body will grow and reach maturity exactly the way that He wants it to. If the Church does not appear to be spiritually mature, this simply means that He is not finished with it yet.

As I look at the need for the authority of God's written word, I am reminded of the importance of Bible translation. The written word will not have an impact on the lives of believers if they cannot understand it. Jesus is building His Church *everywhere*, among *all* peoples. True revival and awakening will impact believers who speak *all* languages.

So please give thanks for this vital part of the work of building the Church, and pray for those who are involved in making His word available to speakers of all languages.



Dorm with New Roof

Praise

- For the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and learn new things at the SIL Retreat
- For resources to do necessary remodeling at the ALEM center, and that the final result of the dormitory project turned out well
- For the workers who have dedicated their lives to bringing God's written word to all believers in all languages

Prayer

- That we would apply the cultural insights that we learned during the SIL Retreat
- That the rest of the remodeling work at the ALEM center would turn out well
- For the continued work of Bible translation around the world, that *all* believers would eventually have God's word in their heart language

May we all continue to see the good things that the LORD brings in our lives, even when they are not obvious,

Bill

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Address for Correspondence

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

Phone Number / WhatsApp / Signal / Telegram
+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

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

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