

Bits from Bill

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

June, 2023



Mother Tongue Translator Course

It's been four years since the last MTT course ended. Finally, things have come together to begin again, with a new group of students. On July 1st, I will leave Brasília and drive out to Chapada dos Guimarães in the state of Mato Grosso, where we will begin what will be the fifth class of students since the course first began.

After seeing the number of participating ethnic groups diminish during the last couple of classes, it is wonderful to have ten groups participating this time. So join me in giving thanks for the new students, and in praying that they and the staff would all remain safe and healthy during the course and afterwards.

Phonology, Sociolinguistics, and Grammar

The Linguistics course goes on. The students recently finished Phonology, spending a week doing a project where they analyzed the Japanese language. Now, they are studying Sociolinguistics, which is being taught by my former neighbor from when I lived in Cuiabá. Afterwards, they will move on to Grammar. All of these subjects are vital for analyzing languages in the context of how they are used by the people who speak them, a necessary step in the Bible translation process.

So please pray for these students as they continue their studies. Pray that they would continue to understand the material. And pray for those who are still seeking the LORD's guidance regarding where to serve. Pray that they would clearly hear God's voice, and obey.

The New Server

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, a partner church in the States provided the funds to purchase a new server computer for the ALEM network. After exploring options, we decided that the best route was to purchase it here in Brazil. We were able to buy it directly from Dell with no problems. After adding two additional hard drives, I was able to set it up to host all of the virtual machines that formerly resided on our old server computers. I will add that this server is so much more powerful than the old ones, that even with twice the load, everything runs much faster and more reliably. This is a true blessing.

So please give thanks again for this provision. We hope that it will serve for many years to come.

Bible Translation and Spiritual Warfare

Bible translation is not a safe task.

Any time that a follower of Jesus works to bring the Word of God to people that do not have it, he or she will step on demonic toes. And they do not take kindly to it.

Over the years, I have heard many accounts of how seemingly inexplicable things have happened to Bible translators; things that affect their health, their families, and more. This is not surprising. The thing that Satan hates the most—other than God Himself—is His written Word. It is the message which explains how to escape from his dominion and find freedom through Jesus Christ. When someone comes to bring that message to a people group that Satan has had under his thumb for centuries, the demons want him or her *gone*. No holds barred.

Fortunately, we have the power to win this fight.

No, we don't have it in ourselves. But God does. And He has made it clear that if we resist the devil, then he will flee. But resisting the devil does not involve merely throwing up a few 'amens' and expecting him to cave. Spiritual warfare requires *persistent and serious prayer*. And it often requires fasting as well.

So please join me in praying for God's divine protection over Bible translators—both those currently in the field and those in training. This year, I have noticed that this group of students has been under spiritual attack. Everything from homework files being mysteriously deleted to outright attempts to convince at least one student to desist from her calling. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God..." Let us *use* those weapons. People *need* the Word of God.



New Server Mounted in Rack

Praise

- For the new Mother Tongue Translator class that begins in July.
- For the new server computer, which is now fully up and functioning.
- That God's power is greater than the power of the enemy.

Prayer

- That the staff and students in the MTT course would remain safe and healthy.
- That the Linguistics students would do well in the course, and clearly hear God's leading.
- For God's protection over Bible translators against the attacks of the enemy.

May the LORD keep you safe
under the protection of His mighty
hand,

Bill

*He has made everything beautiful
in its time. Also, he has put eternity into
man's heart, yet so that he cannot find
out what God has done from the
beginning to the end.*

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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