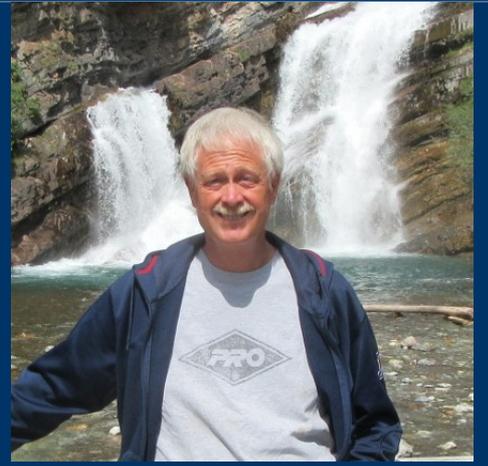


Bits from Bill

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

March, 2018



Busy New Year

It has been a busy beginning to the year, here at the ALEM center. In addition to the usual Perspectives Course, held in January, and the beginning of the regular Linguistics course, several departments have moved offices. This has not only entailed a lot of furniture shifting and other rearrangements, but two of the rooms also lacked network connections, which I had to supply.

The administration also decided to set up separate networks for regular use, students and visitors. Getting this done involved research, solving stubborn problems, and reconfiguring our wireless system. At this point things are working, although we are still waiting for some needed equipment to fill in some gaps. Please be praying as we work to finish the restructuring, that everyone would be able to adapt to the changes, and that the LORD would supply resources for some items that we still need.

Speaking of students, we have a new group of 10 people taking the Linguistics course. They vary widely in age and life experience, but all are dedicated to serving God in some area of ministry. Please pray for them as they study and seek His direction for their lives.

Water Shortage

H₂O is without a doubt one of the most vital substances found on Earth. In large population centers, it is essential to have reliable sources of fresh water. In the central part of Brazil, the government maintains reservoirs to supply major cities. Normally, these reservoirs are filled during Rainy Season, and during Dry Season their levels drop. In recent years, increasing population has drawn more water, causing the levels to drop even further.

This past year, when Rainy Season began, the reservoirs had dropped to 6% capacity. At this time, due to recent rains, the level has risen to nearly 70% in one reservoir, but we are still well below normal. The authorities are already rationing water, and well before the end of Dry Season, these low levels could have serious consequences.

Please be praying about this situation. This is something that does not merely affect us at ALEM, but affects the entire population of a city of over 4 million people, not to mention other cities in central Brazil.

Financial Need

As I mentioned previously, during the first couple of years of this field term, I lost around a quarter of my financial support quota. On the positive side, at this point I have recuperated about half of what was lost. And as I also mentioned, the favorable exchange rate in 2016 allowed me to buy a car for considerably less than I had anticipated. Because of these two factors, I should be able to remain in Brazil until my regularly scheduled furlough at the beginning of 2020. However, I will not be allowed to return afterward, unless I can make up the difference.

So please be praying about this situation. It is difficult to share this need directly with people while I am not actually present in my home country. Only by the grace of God have I been able to regain as much as I have—and because some of you were able to make this need known to others.

Those of you back home are my “ambassadors”. My “voice”. You are the ones who are present in your churches and Bible studies and who can tell others and ask them to pray. So please keep doing that. Please keep sharing about the work of Bible translation among the indigenous peoples of this great country of Brazil!

Mother Tongue Translator Course

The first module of the next class begins in July. Please be praying for both the students and the teachers, as we begin preparations for the course.



Working on a Computer for a ‘Customer’

Prayer

- To be able to finish well all of the jobs associated with the changes taking place at the ALEM center.
- For the new students, as they study and make decisions about their lives.
- For resources to obtain needed equipment.
- That the LORD would raise up new members for my financial support team.
- For the upcoming MTT course, beginning in July.

Praise

- For progress with the changes taking place at the ALEM center.
- For the new students taking the ALEM Linguistics course.
- For the recent rains that have helped the water situation some.
- For the progress so far in replacing the financial support that I lost.

May 2018 continue to be a year of great blessing for you and everyone that you love...

Bill

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John 4:10

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