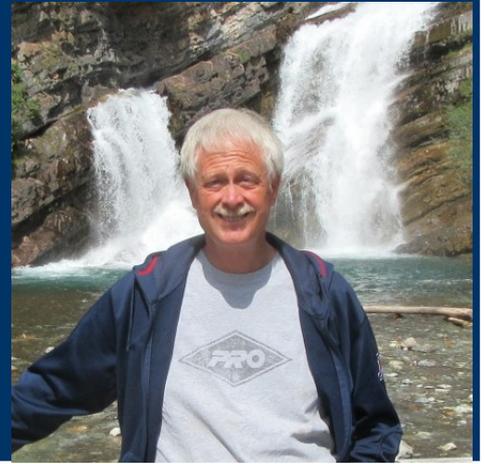


Bits from Bill

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

March, 2019



A New Year, A New Class

Every year, a new group of students takes the Linguistics course here at the ALEM center. And this year, we have a larger group than during the last few years. Fourteen students are enrolled, and have already finished the first month and a half.

A few of these people are already associated with a mission organization. But many of them are still seeking God's guidance in order to know where and how they will serve after completing the course. Please be praying for these people, that they would finish the course well, and that every one of them would have clear direction from the LORD regarding their future ministry.

Documentation

Last year, I began to realize how much information about the functioning of the ALEM network and computer department was poorly documented—or was simply stored in my head! Now this can work... as long as I am here. But I won't be here always, so I realized that it would be a very good idea to document all of this information, so that others could find it in my absence.

What began as a relatively short document describing the center network has grown. The administration has gotten involved, with suggestions as well as recommendations on how to format it to match other department manuals. Right now, I see this as a (relatively!) long-term project, which I hope to have in working order by the time I begin my furlough in December.

So please be praying that I would be able to get this important documentation done—and in a way that non-specialists can understand and use.

New Equipment

As I write this, we are working on getting some necessary replacement equipment for our network and wireless access. Lack of resources has made this difficult, but at this point we have enough in order to make these necessary purchases.

In addition, one of our Internet providers is changing from radio access to fiber optic. This change offers a great increase in speed, and at the same time lowered costs.

Please give thanks to God for both of these blessings.

Mother Tongue Translators

As I reported in Prayer & Praise, the second module of the Mother Tongue Translator course was held in January. Between the first and second modules, the students had the assignment to finish the first draft translation of the book of Ruth. With this done, they received a new assignment at the end of the second module; finish a back-translation of their work into Portuguese.

This is an important step for checking the accuracy of a translator's work. Please be praying for the students as they finish this task, and then have their work checked by a consultant—another standard Bible translation procedure.

Fruitful Years

It's hard to believe that I'm really in the last year of this current field term. At times, it seems like only a short while ago that I returned from my last furlough. But these have been good years. In addition to everything I've been able to do in my work ministry, God has also been working in my life. Just because a person works in the mission field does not mean that he or she is perfect and does not need further spiritual growth. My experience has been that I've learned more about living and walking with the Lord since coming to Brazil, than in all the years before that.

So please keep praying that God would continue His work in my life—and that I would not ever come to think that I've 'made it' and no longer need to grow. If anything, the more that He teaches me, the more I see that He needs to work on.

2019 Linguistics Students... and me!



Prayer

- That all of the ALEM Linguistics students would do well in their studies, and would receive clear guidance from God about their future ministries.
- That I would be able to finish the computer department documentation well, and in a way that others can understand and use.
- For the MTT students as they finish their work on the book of Ruth.

Praise

- For the largest group of Linguistics students in several years.
- For a good beginning to the computer department documentation.
- For resources to get some necessary equipment.
- For the improvement in Internet service.
- For the progress that the MTT students are making with the course and their work.

May the LORD bless your coming in and your going out, and keep you safe in His mighty hand...

Bill

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

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