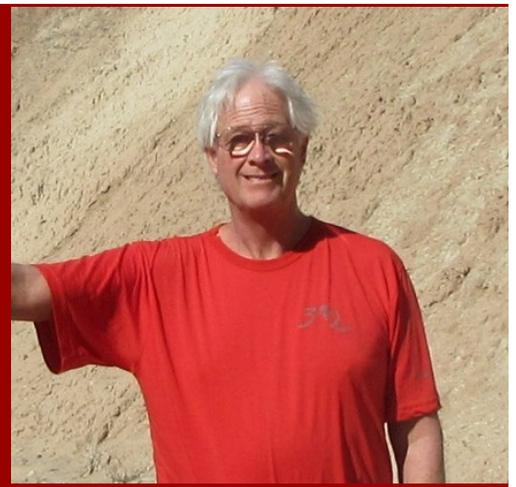


# Bits from Bill

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

March, 2021



## *Out of the Starting Gate*

If a field term could be compared to a horse race, then at this point I would describe myself as being just out of the starting gate. I hope and pray that, by the grace of God, I will run a good race and fight a good fight. There are still people who need the Word of God, and helping those who translate it for them is still my calling in His army. So please give thanks along with me for my first few months back in Brazil—and pray that I would continue to be able to do the job for as long as the LORD wills.

## *There's Power in the Sun...*

We all know that there is power in the Son. But the way God designed the universe, there is also power in the sun. And one of the projects at ALEM since my return has been to install solar panels in order to take advantage of this power. These panels are capable of generating more than 40 kW of electricity! Coupled with a special electric meter that will enable the system to send excess electric power out to the main grid, this will not only greatly reduce our electric bill, but in some months will actually provide income through the electricity that we produce. Once the initial cost is recuperated, this will mean huge savings for the mission. And this will be a huge blessing for the work of Bible translation. So join me in giving thanks for this new provision from the LORD, and pray that it would continue to work well for many years to come.

## *Linguistics Course Starts in April*

Normally, the ALEM Linguistics course starts in January. Due to events of the past year, the 2020 course was suspended after the first module. This year, the leadership is trusting God to get back on track with training people that He calls to work in Bible translation. At this point, the 2021 students are scheduled to begin the first module in April. And when the second module starts later in the year, they will be joined by students from last year who are planning on finishing the course. So in the end, we expect to have a fairly large graduating class!

So please be praying for these people as they prepare to begin their studies next month. Pray that they would clearly hear God's calling and direction in their lives, not only during the course, but afterward when they go forth to serve in the Kingdom as well.

## *Things to Come*

When I got the idea for this section, I wondered what I could possibly put here. After all, I cannot see the future. Only God can. But then I started thinking. A lot has happened in the past year. Will things ever return to anything that we would consider normal?

A lot of that depends on the definition of 'normal'. Truth is, there has always been change, sometimes for the better, and other times for the worse. The world is a battlefield between the forces of God and the forces of Satan. We know who will ultimately win the war. But until then, both sides will continue to win battles.

A very big factor is prayer. *Serious* prayer. While some things God has firmly decided, such as the years of plenty and of famine in Pharaoh's dream, others can be changed when God's people get on their knees and hammer on the doors of Heaven. With everything that is going on in the world today, believers are praying in unprecedented numbers. And while things may look dark at the moment, I am convinced that God has a plan not to merely return things to normal, but to make things even *better*. What this will turn out to be, we can only wait and see. Meanwhile, *keep praying!*

One thing that I am certain of, though, is that the Word of God will continue to go forth. People will continue to hear the message of salvation. And that is the reason why, no matter what happens, I will continue to serve here in Brazil, supporting translation of God's message to all.



*New Solar Panels for the ALEM Center*

## Praise

- For a good beginning 'out of the starting gate'.
- For the solar panels and the savings in electricity costs that they will bring.
- For the students who will be coming in April to begin training for their service in ministry.
- For God's plans, which are always better!
- That the Word of God will continue to go out, no matter what happens in this world.

## Prayer

- That I would continue to be able to serve here as long as the LORD's calling lasts.
- That the solar panels would give good service for many years.
- For the Linguistics students as they prepare to begin their studies.
- For whatever God has planned for the future, knowing that it is better than what man can do.

Stay strong in the Word of God, no matter how dark this world gets. Remember, Jesus wins!

Bill

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

**Romans 10:17**

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