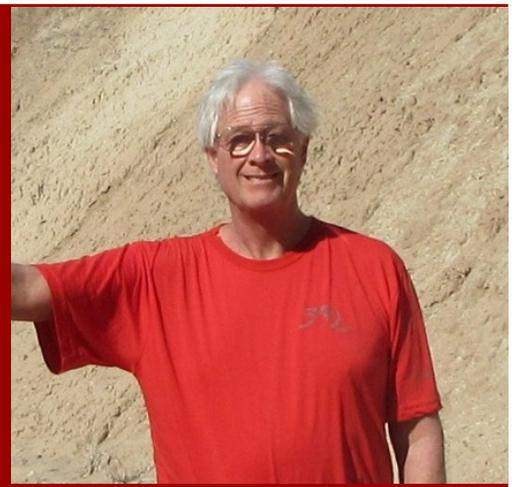


Bits from Bill

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

March, 2022



Another Year—Another Linguistics Class

As last year came to an end, we were admittedly a bit concerned here at the ALEM center about the upcoming Linguistics course for 2022. There is a minimum number of students necessary in order to make the course viable, and as the new year began, enrollment had not reached this number.

However, this has happened in the past—and every time, by the beginning of the course there were enough students to make it work. So we just kept praying, believing that if this was God’s plan, then *He* would call enough people to come and study. And sure enough, by the time the course began, we had enough students.

Thinking about this afterwards, I came to realize that it is natural for us to look at it from the perspective that “God called enough people to make *our* course viable.” But the truth is that ministry is *God’s* work. It is *Jesus* who is building the Church, and Bible translation is a part of this process. So while God does call us to pray about these things, we have to remember that He is the one who is putting the parts of the Body together, as He pleases. At times I think that ministries—whether they be churches, missions, or whatever—acquire a “life of their own”. God starts them, and then we say, “Thanks, Lord!” and run ahead, leaving Him behind—even after the work has accomplished what He intended and it’s time to finish up and move on. This is so human.

I’m not saying that Bible translation is finished, or that it is time to move on. On the contrary, there is still much to be done. But we have to remember who is the Head—and remember that He loves people everywhere and wants them to be saved and have His Word, and that He has a plan to do this. We do need to pray, but we do not need to worry when things don’t go the way *we* expect.

So please give thanks that this year we have another good group of students whom God has called to work in Bible translation. Many of them already have missionary experience and are working with various sending agencies. A few are still seeking God’s direction for where and how He would have them serve; pray that they would clearly hear His voice.

And please pray that all of us who serve in whatever ministry would have and keep the proper perspective—that the work is the Lord’s, not ours.

Computers—New and Old

At the end of last year, I got a new computer for an SIL team and set it up. During the ALEM Assembly, a couple brought in a defective computer that I ended up sending back to the factory for repair under warranty. Then in January, I got another new computer for that same SIL team. Each of these machines had to be set up with the necessary software for a translation project, and have quite a few updates installed, before it was ready for service. Please join me in giving thanks for these tools that help facilitate the work of Bible translation.

In addition, since the beginning of the Linguistics course, several students have brought their computers in for me to look at. Unfortunately, there is only so much that I—or anyone else—can do. The computers are old, or else low-end models. Please pray that these students would be able to get new equipment before going to the field, where they will need better tools in order to do linguistic work.

Translation—New and Old

Meanwhile, translation continues, both via the old paradigm—foreigners and nationals learning the indigenous language and doing the job—and via the new—outsiders working as consultants for mother-tongue translators. Recently, a traditional translation project held a consultant check here at the ALEM center, which saw two New Testament books approved. In addition, the organizers of the Mother Tongue Translator course are starting to plan for the next group of students. Please give thanks for the work that continues to be done, and pray that the Lord would raise up the necessary people to finish the job.

O ALFABETO FONÉTICO INTERNACIONAL (revisado em 2019)									
CONSOANTES (NÃO PALMÔNICAS)									
	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflexa	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glotal
Plosiva	p b		t d			ç ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ	ʔ
Nasal	m	n				ɲ	ŋ		
Vibrante			r						
Tap ou flap		v							
Fricativa	f β	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	h ɦ	
Glissando lateral			l						
Approximante central			j			ɻ			
Approximante lateral			l			ʎ			

CONSOANTES (NÃO PALMÔNICAS)			VOGAIS		
Classe	Simbolos vocálicos	Espécies	Anterior	Central	Posterior
Frontal	i e	close	ɪ × y		ɨ × u
Medial	ɛ ə	mid		ɘ	
Posterior	ɔ o	close			ɔ × ɒ

Linguistics Students’ Current Tool
Phonetic Chart

Praise

- For the good number of students who are taking the Linguistics course.
- For the new computers for translation projects, both SIL and ALEM.
- That the Mother Tongue Translator course is starting to get back on track.
- For the recently completed translation consultation held at ALEM.

Prayer

- That we would have and keep the perspective that the work is the Lord's, not ours.
- That the students with old computers would be able to get equipment adequate for field work.
- For the planning of the next Mother Tongue Translator course.
- For workers to finish the job of Bible translation, in Brazil and everywhere.

May the Lord continue to use you to fulfill His purposes for His Church,

Bill

...for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

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