

Bits from Bill

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

September, 2017



Brazilian Independence Day

On the 7th of this month, we celebrated Independence Day in Brazil. Part of living and working in another country involves participating in their national holidays; it is a good way to show that we respect them and their culture.

Culture is a part of what it means to be human, to be what God made us to be. Understanding culture is essential in Bible translation, in order to make it relevant to the target audience—and to make it speak to their hearts.

Helping in Anápolis

During the week of September 7th, I was in Anápolis, where SIL Brazil has its headquarters. I had gone over to help with some small issues, as well as participate in a discussion about archiving language program data, some of which goes back for decades. Then, after the holiday, I drove back to Brasília, bringing a couple of large pieces of equipment that ALEM purchased from SIL.

One of the things we are doing is moving all of the data that we have stored for years on a local server, onto an Internet based server. This has advantages such as easier access for members in remote locations, automatic backup, and reduced maintenance on our part. This has become increasingly important as our numbers have gone down and we have become less centrally located in the country.

Remodeling the Server Room

As I mentioned, I brought back some equipment which SIL sold to ALEM. This includes a split-unit air conditioner, and a large Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). The current A/C in the ALEM server room is inadequate to cooling the entire space, and so we had built a tiny cubicle for the network rack.

Unfortunately, the system has outgrown the cubicle, and we need to dismantle it. In order to do this, we needed a larger A/C. With the downsizing in Anápolis, ALEM was able to purchase the unit formerly used in the SIL server room. Now we can upgrade.

The large UPS is needed to protect the central network computers against power outages, which can damage data. As soon as the cubicle is dismantled—thus providing room—we will set up the UPS to power the system.

Let us give thanks to God for His provision!

Financial Need

I mentioned earlier this year that I will be losing one of my main financial supporters, due to economic difficulties. As I also stated, they are reducing their support gradually; phasing it out in 25% increments over a period of a year and a half. However, that period ends with the end of this year.

On the positive side, at this time I am not in an emergency situation. Before returning to Brazil, I had saved up in order to buy a car, which is a necessity for living in Brasília. When I arrived, the exchange rate was better than I had anticipated, and so I ended up spending quite a bit less than I had expected to buy a vehicle. So for now, I have reserves. And the exchange rate continues to be favorable.

However, Wycliffe does not find this acceptable in the long run. Quotas are set for members, based upon location, and we are expected to trust God to provide that amount.

Although God knows everything before we even ask, He *does* want us to ask. It's part of how we come to know Him and to trust Him. So please pray with me about this. Pray that the LORD would connect me with those whom He is preparing to participate financially in this ministry.

And please share this need and this prayer request with groups of believers where you have fellowship! I cannot be there to share it myself. But you can!



Equipment ALEM purchased from SIL Brazil

Prayer

- Continued adjustment for SIL Brazil members as we adapt to changing realities; reduced numbers and non-centralized locations.
- For the work involved in remodeling the ALEM server room.
- That God would raise up churches and individuals to participate financially in this ministry.

Praise

- The opportunity to celebrate Brazilian Independence Day.
- A productive trip to Anápolis.
- The A/C unit and UPS for the ALEM server room.
- Sufficient reserves to allow me to remain in Brazil for the time being.

Keep on trusting God, no matter what the world thinks or does. In the end, that's all that matters...

Bill

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

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(Make gifts payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators. Include a separate note saying "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Bill Penning, Ministry Account #232016.")

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