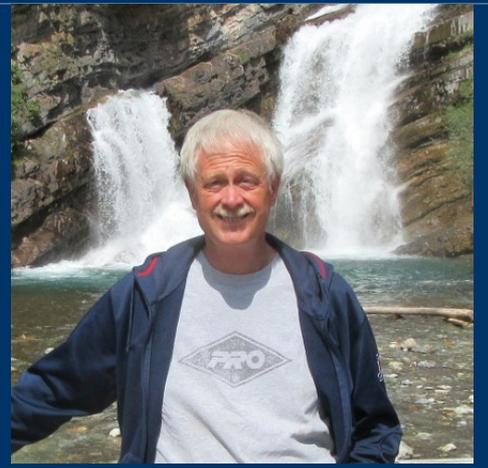


Bits from Bill

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

September, 2018



Tools for Translators

As I mentioned in a *Prayer & Praise Update*, the first module of the Mother Tongue Translator course took place in July. After it ended, the course leadership was able to determine exactly how many students would be able to continue the course—and they arranged for the purchase of an appropriate number of computers for them. These computers were delivered here during the first week in September.

Since then, I have been working on setting them up for the students. This involves removing unwanted software that comes with most computers these days, and then installing the programs that they will need in order to do the job. Afterward, all of the computers need to be updated to the latest version of Windows. Not a difficult task, but one that can be time-consuming. Please be praying that I would not forget anything while preparing these important tools for people who want to have God's word in their own language.

Day-to-Day Life

Working in Bible translation does not make a person immune from the normal aspects of day-to-day life. We still need to go shopping, put gas in our cars, and basically live our lives like most everyone else.

Last month, I had to renew my Brazilian driver's license. This is something that we all have to do here every five years. For me, it is important that I be able to drive. Brasília is a very spread-out city, and taking a bus can result in wasting half a day just getting to and from one's destination! In addition, I need to make occasional trips to our SIL office in Anápolis. And I will be driving to the Mother Tongue Translator course in January, taking the computers for the students. So getting my driver's license renewed was not merely a luxury. It was a necessity.

And before I travel in January, I will need to have the regular maintenance done on my car, to make sure that it will run reliably for the long trip.

Another thing that happens to us—like everyone else—are bugs. Cold bugs. I ended August and began September flat on my back in bed, with a nasty bug that left me wiped out for a week. Then I spent another week gradually getting my strength back. Thankfully, I am now completely back to normal. So please give thanks to the Lord, who takes care of us in all the day-to-day details of life—wherever we are.

Jungle Survival Training

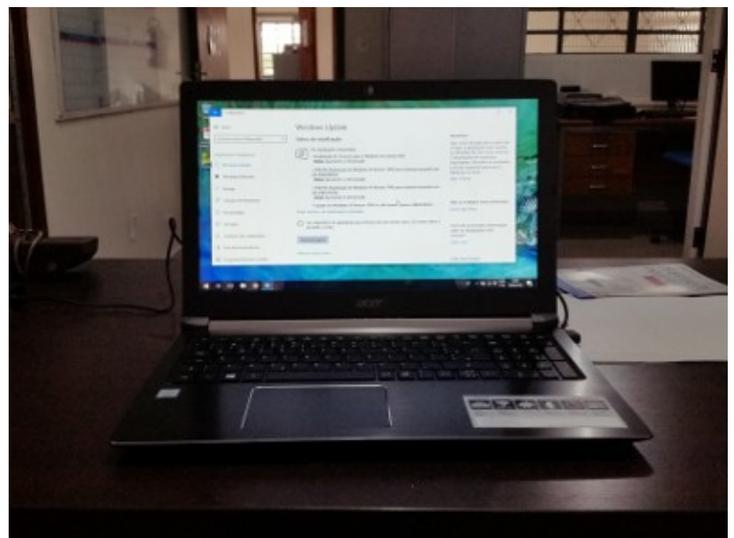
No, not for me! I did field training before I ever came to Brazil—and it was definitely helpful. This time, I'm talking about the Linguistics students who recently finished the course here at ALEM. Several of them will be taking the jungle survival and training course, which will involve living in a jungle village setting, learning a bit of an indigenous language, and acquiring other skills necessary for working in the field.

Please be praying for these students as they undergo this training, and for the decisions that some of them still need to make regarding their future ministry.

Update on Fund Raising

A few of you have asked how things are going regarding the financial shortfall that I'm facing. Although it's still too early to know exactly what my needs will be, a few of you have already responded positively, indicating an interest in participating in the ministry to which God has called me. For this, I give thanks both to you and to Him.

Currently, the exchange rate between the dollar and the Brazilian *real* is favorable, which helps. However, both Brazil and the US have elections coming up, and depending on the result, this could strongly affect the exchange rate. Fortunately, our confidence is in God, not government. But do keep praying!



One of the Computers for the MTT Students

Prayer

- That I would not forget anything during the process of setting up the MTT computers.
- That I would have my car and everything else ready by the time I travel to the MTT course in January.
- For the students who will be taking the ALEM jungle survival and training course.
- That I would have all of my financial needs met by the end of my next furlough.

Praise

- For the computers that were provided for the MTT students to use in their translation projects.
- For getting my driver's license renewed easily and quickly.
- For those who have responded positively to my financial needs and shown an interest in this ministry.
- For the favorable exchange rate, which helps reduce my financial burden.

Stay strong and keep walking
with the LORD!

Bill

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

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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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