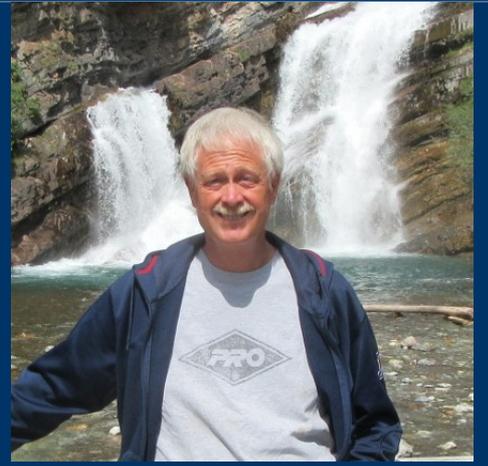


Bits from Bill

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

September, 2019



A New Crop of Laborers

As I sit here and write this, the ALEM Linguistics course is coming to an end for this year. A group of twelve students will finish their studies, and then move on to the next step in the ministries that God is calling them to. It has been a great privilege for me to get to know these people—and I will definitely miss them when they leave.

Some of them will go on to work with other mission organizations. And some of them will end up joining ALEM to work in Bible translation. It will be an honor to someday call them colleagues, and to work together with them to bring God's word to those who still need it.

So please give thanks for the successful conclusion to this crucial training phase for these people. And be praying for them as they seek to know where and how the LORD is calling them to serve Him and His Kingdom.

Determining Needs

As I have repeatedly mentioned in previous communications, my current field term in Brazil is coming to an end. I will be returning to the States for my regularly scheduled furlough in late December. The plan, God willing, is to spend one year in my home country, and then return to Brazil.

The primary purpose of my time in the States will be to reconnect with family and friends, as well as individuals and churches who contribute financially to enable me to continue in this ministry. However, as I have also mentioned previously, this time I will need to raise some additional financial support in order to be allowed to return to Brazil.

First, I want to thank those of you who have already helped to meet this need. You are a part of a great team of workers, dedicated to the goal of having the word of God available in an understandable form for every people group in the world. May the LORD continue to bless you!

At this point, I am working with our human resources department to refine what my actual total needs will be. Once this is done, I will be able to set specific goals to work and pray toward.

So please join me in thanking God for those who are already a part of this ministry team. And pray that He would supply whatever my remaining needs are in time for me to return to Brazil at the end of next year, as scheduled.

Preparation for Absence

Another thing I've mentioned in previous communications, which I need to do before departing for furlough, is to leave the ALEM computer department in good condition, in order to eliminate potential trouble spots. I have also been working to document the network infrastructure and equipment, for those who will take care of it in my absence.

At this point, almost all of the equipment upgrades are in place. And I have produced the first draft of a manual for the department, which I will present to the center administrator when he returns from his travels. The documentation will require a few iterations before it is ready, so this is just the first step. Please give thanks to God for the progress, and be praying that the final document would serve the center needs in my absence.

Future Plans

Following my upcoming furlough, I am planning to return to Brazil for another four years. But after that? While I would like to keep returning, I can no longer automatically assume that I will be able to. So one thing that I will need to do while in the States is consult with our personnel about retirement, to see what is possible, and how legal requirements will affect my future. So please be praying as I begin to seriously examine this approaching phase of my life.



Helping to Set Up an On-line Meeting for the Class

Praise

- For the Linguistics students' successful completion of the coursework.
- For those who have joined the team to help financially support the ministry in which I work.
- For the equipment upgrades which will enhance the reliability and resilience of the center network.
- For completing the first draft of the computer department documentation.
- For twenty-seven and a half years serving in Brazil!

Prayer

- For the Linguistics students who are still seeking God's direction in their service to Him.
- For a clear financial support goal, and for new team members to help meet it.
- For the review and revision of the computer department documentation, that it would be complete and usable by those who will be here in my place.
- For wisdom and guidance from the LORD as I begin to contemplate retirement.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the coming year...

Bill

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Isaiah 52:7

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