

Prayer and Praise Update

August, 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings again from the ALEM center!

It's hard to believe that August is now almost over. This year, it was a milestone month for me; I am now officially an Old Man. I turned 60 several days ago. Of course, many say that you are only as old as you think you are. I still can't imagine myself as a graybeard...

It's a milestone that makes me stop and think. Unless I am a huge exception to statistics, my life is well over halfway done. The day looms ever closer when I will stand in the Presence of the LORD. And that is a sobering thought.

What is really important in life? Even though I officially work in ministry, how important is knowing God for me? These are not questions that I can take for granted. Even Paul—who wrote half of the New Testament, and whom we all look up to as a tremendous example of a man of God—struggled. “Let he who thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall.” Now, more than ever, I need to keep my focus on what the real purpose of life is. Jesus said in John 17: 3 that eternal life is knowing the one true God, and His Son whom He sent. It's not about how many computers I can fix, or how many people I can help with their translation. It's about knowing God. Pray that I would not lose sight of that.

On a more down-to-Earth subject, this month the ALEM linguistics students graduated from their course, as I mentioned in my last Update. At the time, we were only expecting a couple of the students to continue with the organization. Instead, four of them have decided to pursue work with ALEM. Praise God for the young people who have decided to dedicate their lives to bringing God's word to people who don't have it!

This month also saw the launch of a new version of the SIL Brazil web site, as I mentioned in my last full Newsletter. You can check it out at www.silbrazil.org.

I am also working on implementing increased controls over the use of Internet access on the ALEM center. Unfortunately, there have been a couple of cases of abuse of the system; individuals who do not respect the need to share the service with all of the users. This has resulted in the administration requesting me to do this. Please pray that I would be able to set up a system that meets these needs, while at the same time permitting legitimate users to get their jobs done without hindrance

So please give thanks for:

- Sixty years of life on this Earth.
- God's word to help guide us in the way that we should live.
- The linguistics students who have decided to continue in mission work.
- The new version of the SIL Brazil web site, and its successful launch!

Please pray that:

- I would continue to obey God's word—and keep in mind what is truly important.
- The students that graduated from the linguistics course would continue to follow God's leading.
- I would be able to come up with a good system of Internet access control that meets everyone's needs.

Using technology to bring the word of God to people who don't have it,

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