

Prayer and Praise Update

February, 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings again from the ALEM center in Brasília!

I returned here at the tail end of January, right before the current Linguistics course began at the center. I had a safe trip back from the Mother Tongue Translator course, which ended well; all of the students completed their translations of the first 7 chapters of I Samuel. For them, the real work now begins. Seven chapters of the Old Testament is only a small fraction of the entire word of God. Please pray for these graduates, that they would continue to be motivated to complete the work of bringing the Scriptures to their own people.

While at the MTT course, we discovered that we had some unexpected funds available at ALEM, and so when I returned, we were able to begin some of the projects that we have been wanting to do for some time. We have already made dramatic improvements in the center wi-fi, and are waiting for more equipment to arrive in early March, so that we can finish the next step. This is important, because there are people who need to work from home, since they have young children to take care of. It is also opening up new options for center-wide telephone service.

One of the last discussions at the MTT course concerned its future. In the past, we have always worked on a January-July-January schedule. This means that some of the teachers have not had a January free for the past six years. So in order to give them an opportunity to spend some of the holiday time with family, the decision was reached to begin the next course in July of 2018. We are also considering changing the location. These are important decisions, so please be praying for the leadership during this time of change.

As I mentioned above, the annual Linguistics course has begun at the ALEM center. This time, we only have 10 students. As a result, they are planning on only offering the first module this year, which means that the course will only last three months. This was a difficult decision for the leadership to make, since it impacts those students who are planning on becoming translators and literacy workers with ALEM. Again, please be praying for this situation.

So please give thanks for:

- A safe trip back from the MTT course.
- A successful finish to the MTT course for all of the students.
- The resources that we now have to help with necessary improvements at the ALEM center.
- The students currently taking the Linguistics course here.

Please pray for:

- The students who finished the MTT course, that they would continue the work.
- The future of the MTT course, and decisions that need to be made.
- The remaining work on the network infrastructure and Internet service at the ALEM center.
- The Linguistics students here at the center, that they would be able to continue in their callings, in spite of the shortened class year.

Helping improve services for people training and supporting Bible translators,

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