

Prayer and Praise Update

January, 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings again from Brazil!

As we near the end of the first month of 2018, I thought I would pause and reflect on how the new year is beginning. In many ways, it appears to be off to a good start. There is an optimism that had been absent for several years. Scientific and technological advance continue to enable us to do more and do it better. Yet at the same time, there are signs which are less encouraging. Societies around the world are deeply divided, and becoming more so all the time. Crime, terrorism and the threat of war make the world an ever-increasingly dangerous place to live. So what should be our response?

The real, underlying conflict is not between the East and the West. Nor is it between the Left and the Right. Or between any of the other factions which fight over our divided world. The real conflict is between Light and Darkness, between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. And that is why our response must always be to bring the Word of God to people, and to pray that He would open their hearts and draw them to His glorious Kingdom. Because in the end, that Kingdom is the only thing that will endure.

This was the first January that I spent at the ALEM base since moving here. For the past six years, the Mother Tongue Translator course always held a module in January. This year, the first module will begin in July instead. At this writing, those in charge are still deciding exactly where the first module will be held. Please be praying that they would make the right decision.

During this month at ALEM, we began exploring options to separate our center network into segments, in order to allow visitors to access the Internet, while at the same time leaving more sensitive items on the office server off-limits. I ended up struggling with this for over two weeks, before finally discovering that I actually *did* understand how it worked—the problem was a defect in the operating system of the Internet gateway computer. It *should* have worked, but it didn't. Once I discovered that, I've been able to move forward.

Every January, ALEM hosts the *Perspectives* course. This course goes over many aspects of the global Christian movement, helping believers to understand how evangelism fits into the different cultural environments, as well as giving a historical overview of the spread of the Gospel around the world. When I was in Tucson in 2010 I took this course, and found it quite illuminating. If you ever have a chance to take it, I encourage you to do so!

A few months ago, I shared a need regarding financial support. Since then, by the grace of God I have recuperated around half of what I lost. At this time, barring unforeseen issues, I should be able to complete my four-year term in Brazil. However, I will not be allowed to return after my next furlough until I have the rest made up. So please be praying that God would bring new members onto this important part of the team!

So please give thanks for:

- The *Perspectives* course that was held at the ALEM center in January.
- Finding the problem in the network virtualization.
- Recuperating half of the financial support need that I lost.
- The King, who offers us life in His glorious Kingdom!

Please pray that:

- The organizers would soon be able to decide on the location of the first module of the MTT course.
- I would be able to “finish well” in getting the network virtualization set up.
- For new people to join my support team, so that I will be able to return to Brazil after my next furlough.
- Events such as the *Perspectives* course would result in more workers for the Kingdom.

Serving the technical needs of Bible translation in Brazil,

Bill Penning
SIL Brazil / Wycliffe Bible Translators

Address for Correspondence

Bill Penning
C.P. 6101
70741-970 Brasília – DF
BRAZIL

Address for Contributions

Wycliffe Bible Translators
P.O. Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

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