

Prayer and Praise Update

January, 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Brasília!

After an uneventful flight from Green Bay, I arrived in Brasília on the morning of the first. A great way to begin the new year! None of my flights were delayed, and all of my baggage arrived with no problems. Even Customs did not bother inspecting my suitcases, in spite of the fact that I was bringing down thousands of dollars worth of equipment for ALEM and a couple of other people.

Since getting here, it has been a zoo. First, I had to start coming up to speed with all the changes that had taken place during my absence—including equipment that had been damaged or destroyed by lightning. Fortunately, I had help. Our current center administrator is also very knowledgeable in the field, and had done an excellent job of patching things up while waiting for me to bring down material for the fiber-optic project.

On the 14th, another colleague arrived at the center to help with the project. Three of us then worked for seven straight days to get the cable in place and make all the necessary connections. I was very glad to have their help. At the end, we had a working system. Since then, we have had a couple of big storms—and the new equipment handled them without any problems. There are still some “finishing touches” that we want to put in place, but the biggest part is done.

For the first three weeks, I ended up living in a temporary apartment on the center, while my permanent one was being remodeled. The entire second dormitory is being converted into an apartment block, for both long-term residents and students who have families. Since the annual Linguistics course has been put off until April, this is actually a good time for us to get a lot of this kind of work done around the center. The fiber-optic project was merely one of several.

Lastly, please note that my mailing address below is different than the one I used during my previous term. ALEM will be closing their post office box at the end of February, since it is no longer necessary nor worth the cost to keep. So from now on we will use the actual physical address of the center as our mailing address.

So please give thanks:

- For a safe and uneventful trip back to Brazil.
- For being able to get “back in the saddle” fairly quickly.
- For being able to complete the main part of the fiber-optic project.
- For a new apartment that will be my home for the next four years.

Please pray:

- For all of the projects that the ALEM leadership is trying to get done during this slow period.
- For the new students who will be coming in April, that the LORD would guide them as they prepare to serve.
- That I would continue to settle back into my role and function with ALEM.

Getting back to work here in Brazil,

Bill Penning

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