

Bits from Bill

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

June, 2026



Seventy Years of Bible Translation in Brazil

Last month, SIL Brazil held its annual Conference in our headquarters city of Anápolis. And during our time together, we celebrated the seventieth anniversary of the founding of SIL Brazil. It was an incredible feeling being part of this celebration, thinking about all of the people groups who now have God's word in their language because of the work of SIL and other partner organizations that joined in the task over the years. As part of the ceremony, we honored our partners, and finished up by welcoming ALEM into the group of SIL Community Organizations.

The job is not done yet. Although we have made tremendous progress over the decades, there are still people groups who need the word of God. The paradigm has shifted; today, the emphasis is on mother-tongue translation, with linguists from SIL and partner organizations serving more as facilitators rather than doing the work themselves. But the result is the same; people can finally understand what God has to say, in their own languages.

So please give thanks for these seven decades of bringing God's word to the indigenous peoples of Brazil. And keep on praying that, through God's empowerment, we and others whom He has called would be able to complete the task.

Increasing Network Stability

One of my goals during this final field term has been to do everything I can in order to leave the center network in as good a condition as possible. When I arrived in January, we were experiencing severe stability problems in a couple of the buildings, which affected connectivity for the Linguistics students as well as some residents. Fortunately, that issue was resolved in April. However, there still existed some residual instabilities that needed to be addressed—and the Lord has made sure that I became aware of them... and relied on Him to enable me to resolve them.

There are still some issues. Nothing that is causing significant problems at the moment, but could potentially cause them later on. We are also considering extending the network to a new social area that was constructed during my time in the States and is frequently used. So please give thanks for the progress so far, and pray that God would show me whatever else needs to be taken care of.

Slight Change in Plans

When I left for Brazil at the end of last year, my plan was to retire immediately as soon as my final two-year term was over. However, on advice from Wycliffe, I will actually remain an active member for a few months after I get back to the States. The reason for this is simple: it will be a lot easier to jump through all the retirement hoops in the States than to try to do it remotely from Brazil. Yes, I still plan to retire in '28. It's just that I have recognized the need to take a few months to do it right.

And meanwhile, I trust that the Lord will show me what He has for me during my retirement years.

Upcoming Ministry Work

At this time, the Mother Tongue Translator course is still set to begin in January of next year. Please continue to pray!

In August I will be serving as Translation Helper for a group of our students who will be doing a practice translation of scripture into English. I love doing this!

Eyeballs

As I write this, I am still on the waiting list for a cornea in São Paulo state; the transplant to be done in Campinas. The estimate was for six months, which means that, barring additional delay, it should take place some time in August or September. I will continue to include any new information in my Prayer & Praise Updates.

Please keep praying for the upcoming procedure, specifically, for a perfect cornea for the transplant.



Honoring Partners at SIL Conference

Praise

- For seven decades of SIL and partner organizations bringing God's word to the indigenous peoples of Brazil.
- For progress toward making the ALEM center network more stable,
- For the opportunity to serve as Translation Helper for a group of Linguistics students.

Prayer

- That the workers whom God has called to the task would complete the job of bringing His word to those who still need it.
- For the Mother Tongue Translator course, currently scheduled to begin in January.
- For a perfect cornea for the upcoming transplant in August or September.

May the Lord continue to enrich
your life as His spirit reveals more
and more truth from His word,
Bill

*All Scripture is given by inspiration
of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for
instruction in righteousness...*

II Timothy 3:16

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