

Bits from Bill

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

September, 2024



Eyeballs

On the 13th of this month, I returned to the ophthalmologist for a post-surgical check-up. While he continues to be satisfied with my progress, he feels that the vision in my right eye needs to improve some more before he will be comfortable doing the left eye. I can see his point; when he does the left eye, then the right eye will become my main eye—and I will need to be seeing well out of it. At this point, it has not reached a sufficient level of visual acuity for me to be able to comfortably read or use a computer. So I will not be having the left eye done this month.

While I was disappointed, the Lord immediately reminded me that *I'm* the one who wants to have everything done right away. He pointed out that, if the left eye transplant is delayed even until I return from furlough next year, it will not cause any problems with what He has in store for me when I retire. I still don't know what that is, but I still have at least part of one more field term to do before retirement. And He is still working on other things in my life.

So for now, please give thanks for the progress in my right eye. As the doctor explained, for this type of transplant, this is a perfectly normal rate of recovery. And pray that the visual improvement would continue—and if God desires, would go even faster than normal. I certainly will not turn down His intervention. And meanwhile, He continues to work on my life as a unified whole.

Where There's Smoke, There's Fire

One thing that often happens in Brazil in the latter part of Dry Season is fires. There are various causes, from accidental to semi-purposeful to purposeful. Because of a combination of factors—including an unusually dry Dry Season—this year's fires have been some of the worst in decades.

Fortunately, at this point some places have been getting a bit of rain. But we really need more. In addition to the fires, rivers used for navigation are very low. And the smoke from the fires is causing respiratory problems for a lot of people. So please be praying that the LORD would send rain—even in the middle of Dry Season. And pray that He would use this to show His power and love for His creatures—we human beings made in His image—and that many would turn to Jesus as a result.

Mother-Tongue Translator Course

The final module of the MTT course was held near Chapada dos Guimarães in July. At the end of the module, each group of students received ten copies of the first six-and-a-half chapters of Nehemiah in their own languages, translated and checked. In addition, the same text was used to create a phone application, along with an audio recording, so that even more of their people would have access to this portion of scripture in a language that speaks to their hearts.

The students have gone home, where they are continuing the job of translating God's word into their mother tongues. Please join me in giving thanks for their dedication in completing this course, and pray that this dedication would continue, until the job is completed.

Putting It Into Practice

Just a brief update about the students from the 2023 ALEM Linguistics course. This group is definitely putting into practice what they studied! Two couples returned to projects that they had already been working on. Of the rest, one who only did the first module already spent several months in an African country. Two who did the full course are now part of a translation team in the state of Rondônia. Another has already made six trips to the indigenous village where she now works. Another joined a translation project in the northwest. One more is working at a mission base in the state of Goiás. Others are still in training.

Please give thanks for the fruit for the Kingdom of God that these former students are bearing.



Smoke from Fires in Mato Grosso

Praise

- For continued post-transplant progress in my right eye, and improved vision.
- For the completion of the Mother Tongue Translator course, and the graduating students.
- For the Linguistics students from last year, who are already hard at work in the mission field.

Prayer

- That the vision in my right eye would continue to improve until it reaches 100%.
- For rain, even now in the midst of Dry Season, to help put out the fires all over Brazil.
- That God would use the fire situation to show His power and love to those who need to see it.

Thank you for continuing to pray. And keep on praying, especially that I would clearly hear what God is telling me,

Bill

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

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