

Bits from Bill

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

December, 2025



Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

As the year—and my time in the States—comes to an end, we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Whether or not He was actually born on December 25th is not important; what is important was that He came, lived a perfect life, and then died to pay for our sins. And after that He rose again... and will live and reign forever.

As we celebrate the first coming of Jesus, let us not forget that He will come again. We do not know when, but we know that He *will* come. And when He comes the second time, He will come as King. And those of us who believe in Him will be raised from the dead to live with Him forever. Praise His Name!

A Good Time in the States

My furloughs are usually a good time to rest and to reconnect with friends and family, and this one was no exception. And as usual, I was able to take a camping vacation during the summer, taking advantage of it to also visit a friend in Canada, as well as my usual visits to National Parks. While my calling from the LORD is still to help with Bible translation in Brazil, this time here is necessary. Whenever I return, I always find myself with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the task.

In addition, I had financial needs which had to be met in order to return. By the grace of God, these needs were met. It didn't happen exactly the way I had anticipated, but in my life this is far from unusual. God has His way of doing things, and most of the time it is not the same as our ways. In fact, His way is generally better. It's not always easy to accept this, but I have discovered that the more I do accept it, the less stressful life turns out to be.

Leaving for Brazil

As I write this, I will be leaving in a few more days, flying out of Green Bay on the 31st and arriving the following day. As I have mentioned repeatedly, this will be my final field term before retiring at the end of '27. And as I have also mentioned repeatedly, my biggest prayer request is for someone to take my place at ALEM when I retire. So please be praying for a safe trip back, but even more than that, please be praying that God would connect us at ALEM with the person that He has chosen for this job.

My Final Two Years

My theme for my final two years on the field is "Finish Well". For me, this means not only continuing to do the job that God called me to, but to make sure that when I leave, ALEM will continue to function without me and that my absence will not create problems that impede Bible translation in Brazil.

However, I must take care not to overrate my own importance. The One who calls us and enables us is the Lord of the harvest. I am merely one worker that He called and sent to Brazil to participate in His work of bringing His Word to all peoples on Earth. Just as He called me, He also calls others, each in turn.

And it is the same with the tools that we use. God filled this world with the materials that we would need, and gave us the brains to use them. Just as He took care of the Israelites' shoes during their forty years in the desert, He also takes care of things today. I must do my part, but I must also trust Him.

Eyeballs

The final item that I will mention is that when I return to Brazil, I will resume the post-surgical procedures on my right eye. According to the ophthalmologist, I still need to have laser treatment in order to finalize the shape of the new cornea. Once that is done, I should be able to move on to getting the left eye done.

So please be praying for this process, that when everything is finished, I would have good vision in both eyes.



Winter in Wisconsin—My last few weeks in the States

Praise

- For eternal life in Christ as we celebrate His birth.
- For a good furlough year, and the chance to revisit family and friends.
- For God's financial provision to enable me to return to Brazil for my final two years.

Prayer

- For a safe return to Brazil and a fruitful final two years on the field.
- That God would quickly reveal whom He has chosen to take my place when I retire.
- That the work on my eyes would go forward and result in fully restored vision.

May the new year bring many blessings, and new opportunities to know our great God even more,
Bill

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

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