

Bits from Bill

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

March, 2024



Another New Class

As usual, a new class of students for the ALEM Linguistics course arrived at the beginning of February. This year there are fewer students overall, but more indigenous students taking the course. Among the others we have people planning to work in places such as China and South Africa. So far I've enjoyed getting to know them. A couple of students will only take the first module, but the rest are planning on doing the entire course. So please join me in giving thanks for these new students, and pray that they would do well and keep their eyes on the Lord as they follow His leading.

Mother-Tongue Translators

As I reported in my recent Prayer & Praise Updates, I was able to participate in the second module of the current MTT course, in Mato Grosso. And in July, assuming no complications from the eye surgery, I will return for the final module of the current class.

The final module will be the busiest. Even now, the students are working on finishing their "homework", so that at the end of the course they will have most of the book of Nehemiah translated and checked—and ready to be given to their people. In addition, during the final module this same scripture portion will be recorded in video format for those who cannot yet read in their language.

So please join me in praying for the students, and that nothing would keep me from being able to participate in the final module in July.

Odd Jobs

Here at the ALEM center, I have not had any major projects since returning from the MTT course. However, there are the usual small tasks necessary in order to maintain a working network infrastructure. And in addition, visiting translators have brought me computers that needed work. This may not seem like much, but it is essential if our translators are to be able to continue their day-to-day work. And in a couple of cases, the translator got a new computer—and wanted to hand his older model off to one of the indigenous helpers on his translation team. With this "new" tool, the indigenous helper will be able to make a larger contribution to the job of bringing God's word to his people. Nothing is unimportant in God's plans!

Eyeballs

As I write this, everything has been done in preparation for the cornea transplant. The only thing left is for a cornea to become available. According to the ophthalmologist, this should be soon. In fact, by the time I finish this letter and send it out, I may have already had the surgery! Please join me in giving thanks for the progress, and keep praying for the surgery and the recovery time afterward.

Planning for Furlough

It's hard to believe, but I'm already in my fourth year since returning to Brazil. I originally planned to return to the States in March or April of '25 and spending a full year. However, the 6th MTT course will begin in January of '26. So I am altering things slightly. I now plan to return around the beginning of February and stay until the end of December, in order to participate in the course.

Please be praying for this time of furlough. It will be my last... before retiring. I *could* retire now if I wanted. However, if I wait until I'm 70, I will receive considerably more Social Security. And I'm not ready to retire now.

During my time in the States I will need to raise some more financial support. Several partners have dropped out, including a few that have been with me for a long time. Please be praying for this. I will only be asking for a commitment for one field term, in order to finish well. I also know that economic conditions are very bad right now, but I also know that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the diamonds in the center of Jupiter. So for Him, this will not be hard at all. Praise His Name!



2024 ALEM Linguistics Class

Praise

- For the current class of Linguistics students, and the progress that they are making so far.
- For being here in order to do the “little jobs” that keep translators doing *their* jobs.
- For the progress that the MTT students are making, with the course and their translations.
- For progress in the cornea transplant procedure.

Prayer

- That the students would do well and continue along the path that God has called them to.
- That the MTT students would be able to complete their homework well for the third module.
- For a *good* cornea and a successful transplant.
- That I would be able to finish this year well and be ready for furlough next year.

May the LORD continue to lead you in the path along which He has called you...

Bill

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

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