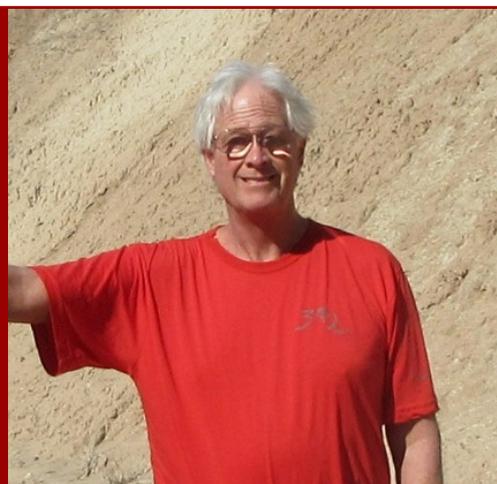


Bits from Bill

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

September, 2023



Mother Tongue Translator Course

The first module of the MTT course took place in July, in the state of Mato Grosso. Ten ethnic groups participated. This class saw some “firsts”: First group to send two teams to the course, because there are two dialects different enough to warrant separate translations. First group to send an indigenous facilitator. And the first time that the course was held at the Buriti training center, instead of the AMI Bible school.

The course got off to an excellent start. The students were enthusiastic, and are looking forward to the next module in January. And for the first time, many of them will not need computers provided for them; they already have their own and are satisfied with them.

So please give thanks for a good beginning for this class of MTT students, and please join me in praying that they would continue well and not lose the vision of having God’s word available for their people in their own language.

More Sad Good-byes... With a Silver Lining

The ALEM Linguistics course is over, and with its ending came a lot of sad good-byes. I made more friends this year than any other year that I can remember, and I’m going to really miss them. I already miss them! But that is part of this life that God has called me to. The positive side is that I get to meet these people in the first place.

How can I describe them... People who love the Lord and were willing to spend seven months in an intensive course, learning material that was new—and often difficult—for them. Why? Because they knew that God was calling them to dedicate their lives to bringing His written word to people who don’t have it.

And that is the silver lining. Even though I miss these people—some of them a lot—I know that they are doing what God called them to do. Even now, some of them are at the ALEM jungle survival training course, while others are doing a two-month internship in an indigenous village with another mission organization. Further steps toward the ministries where they will eventually serve.

So join me in giving thanks for these wonderful people and their dedication to serving the Kingdom of God. And please be praying for them as they take the next steps in their ministry journeys.

Eyeballs

Jesus said, “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.” Well, my lamp has been getting kind of dim in recent years, and I finally went to see an ophthalmologist. Now I’ve had eye exams done over the years, but I never really understood the difference between an optometrist and an ophthalmologist. So I had been going to the former. This time, I went to the latter.

Back in ’93, I had surgery to correct my vision. It worked great—but what the doctor just found out was that it came with a price: my corneas are now badly scarred and deformed. He was able to prescribe glasses that should help, but since my corneas will continue to deteriorate, I will ultimately need a transplant. Fortunately, he is a nationally renowned eye surgeon and should be able to do it.

Also fortunately, the cost turns out to be a lot less than I’d expected. I am currently talking with our Wycliffe insurance provider to see if they will cover it.

So please join me in giving thanks that the underlying problem with my vision was discovered, and that there is a solution. And give thanks for the eyeglass prescription—which the optometrist could not provide—which should serve as a temporary solution. And please join me in praying that the surgery would be successful, and that I would be able to cover all the costs.

This is why this newsletter is coming out a bit late. I really needed to include this bit of news.



Graduating Class from Linguistics Course

Praise

- For a good beginning for the current class taking the Mother Tongue Translator course.
- For the ALEM Linguistics students who successfully finished the course.
- That the ophthalmologist discovered the root of my vision difficulties—and has a solution.
- That the cost of a cornea transplant will be a lot less than I had previously thought.

Prayer

- That the MTT students would continue well and not lose their vision for God's written word.
- For the Linguistics students as they move on to the next step in their missionary journeys.
- That the ophthalmologist would be able to successfully perform the cornea transplant.
- That either my health insurance would cover the cost, or that I would find another source.

May the Lord take care of you
and continue to show you His love
and plans for your life,

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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