
Bits From Bill

Anápolis, Brazil

Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators

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A New Home!

After all the preparation, after all the hype, and after everything else, the Great Day finally came. As part of the move of SIL Brazil from Cuiabá to Anápolis, I am now in my new home.

Like with any other move, there will be a period of adjustment. I lived in Cuiabá for eleven years, making my home there as part of the team working on the task of Bible translation. But as I have explained in earlier letters, there came a time when our center was no longer the optimum means of working toward this goal. And so here I am now in a new town, still working toward the goal of having the Word of God available in the mother tongue of all of the indigenous peoples of Brazil.



My New House

Early Steps

I made my first trip to Anápolis in February. It was basically a scouting trip, to look the office over and make plans for the future. I stayed a week, then spent a few days in Brasília helping our colleagues from ALEM, the Brazilian national Bible translation organization.

At that time, only one family from Cuiabá—Mike and Anneke Painter and their three children—had already moved here. They were the "forerunners", so to speak, here to scout things out and help prepare the way for all of us. Along with everyone else in the Brazil Branch, I am profoundly grateful for all the hard work that the Painters did to help smooth the move for the rest of us.

I returned in March and spent a month here, installing the infrastructure for our new computer network, as well as looking for a place to live. Working with me were Bob Wright—a former Brazil Branch member—and Hank Scott, both from our technical center at JAARS in Waxhaw, NC, as well as Cristiano Barros, a member of ALEM who, besides working on an Old Testament translation, is also a computer technician. Together we installed 48 pairs of network jacks and nearly 3 kilometers of cable. For me, this was an exciting time, a chance to "start over" and apply everything I had learned in the past 10 years about networking and related tasks. And in the process of this job, we



Me in New Office

repeatedly saw the hand of God: the right people, the right tools, and the right help when we needed it.

And I also found a house.

One of the best things about living on the Cuiabá center was the proximity of my house to my office. It was about a 3 minute walk from my front door to my office door. I had anticipated either having to get a car—a considerable expense these days—or else using the city bus system in order to get to work every day. But God blessed me tremendously. After spending an afternoon looking for housing, I was returning to the office with Mike Painter when he suddenly pointed and said, "Aluga-se!", which is Portuguese for "For Rent". He had spotted a rental sign just up the street and around the corner from the office. One thing led to another, and I ended up signing a rental contract the following day.

The Move

After returning to Cuiabá, I spent only another three and a half weeks before returning to Anápolis, this time with my household goods and most of the equipment from the computer department. I spent a week and a half setting things up

and getting odds and ends for the house. It was amazing what I ended up having to buy. I had been living in what was essentially an American-style house on our center in Cuiabá, and had now moved to a purely Brazilian-style house in Anápolis. My furniture didn't "fit". I ended up getting rid of a fair bit of it and getting new stuff. Fortunately, this was a one-time expense; now that I have appropriate furniture, I will be able to store it when I return to the U.S. for furlough, then get it back when I return to Brazil, even if I end up living in a different house.

After a week and a half I returned for my final visit to Cuiabá. I picked the time so that I could attend the last ever High School graduation from our school, which is closing forever. Also, I wasn't about to miss seeing young people graduate from High School that I could still remember as four-year old kids!

Leaving Cuiabá the final time was hard. I had made a life there and at one time thought that I would be there until the Branch finished its work and closed down. Lots of memories. But it was also a good reminder that life in general is transitory. The only permanent home we will ever have will be in New Jerusalem.



My Work Room at the Office

The Continuing Move...

At this point, the move is far from over. Right now there are six of us that regularly come to the office, and of the six, not everyone comes every day yet. People are still setting up their homes, getting cars, arranging phone and Internet service (one thing I am still lacking at home myself!), and so forth.

And there are still departments waiting to move from Cuiabá. The new meeting room downstairs is still far from finished; many items need to be put in place, others removed, and one wall painted. Most of the upstairs is still strewn with boxes and furniture. I am still waiting for the old network server to arrive so that I can update the new one and put it to work. I am still working bugs out of our new software phone system. Most of the



The Mess Upstairs

air conditioners still need to be installed.

At this point I expect that it will still be at least a month or more before we are really "up and running". And I expect that we will be finding little things here and there for a long time afterward. For me, at



New Office and Storage Building

least, the hard part is over. For some of our other members, it is still to come. Please be praying for us during this time of transition.

The Bottom Line

In short, moving is painful. Change is always hard. But God is still the same here as He was in Cuiabá. He is still the same as He was in Tucson. He is still the same as He was when I lived in Indiana, and Wisconsin. And He will always be the same.

We are here to translate the Word of God. There are people dying every day and going into eternity without Christ, people who need to know the Truth. And in the end, that is why we moved. We moved to help facilitate the work of translation. We moved to be closer to other organizations who are partners in the task of Bible translation. We moved to make better use of the resources God has given us toward that task.

And so now I ask you to pray with us as we begin this new era of our work in Brazil in our new facilities.

Prayer

- That I would continue to adapt to life in Anápolis
- For others in the Branch who are still in the process of moving
- For the work of setting up the new office
- That we will all continue to work together toward the goal of Bible translation
- For a good Internet provider!

Praise

- For the many ways that God provided during the network installation phase
- For a house close to the office!
- That all my goods arrived undamaged and in good time
- That I am fairly quickly learning my way around town and finding needed things and stores
- For those from other missions in the area who have helped so much

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

Psalm 139:7-10

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