

Bits from Bill

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

December, 2011



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As another year draws to a close, we pause and reflect over what it has brought, and look forward to what the next year will bring. This is also the time when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Whether He was really born on December 25th or whether it was some other day is irrelevant. What matters is that He came, and because of that, we can know Him and have eternal life.

For myself, this past year saw my return to the field here in Brazil, and to the work that God has called me to do for His Kingdom, helping to bring His Word to the indigenous peoples of this country. And next year will begin with more of the same, as I make plans to be gone from Anápolis for a month, from Jan. 11 to Feb. 11, providing technical support for the first-ever Mother Tongue Translator workshop in Brazil, at the Indian Bible School near Chapada dos Guimarães, Mato Grosso.

So let us celebrate the holidays, wherever we are, by remembering the real Reason for the Season. Remember that the word “holiday” comes from “holy-day”. Let us celebrate the coming of our Savior, and then dedicate ourselves to His service in the upcoming year. Jesus not only came 2000 years ago; He is coming again!

MTT Course and Equipment

During the past several weeks, I have been setting up and configuring 48 netbook computers that were donated for the students in the Mother Tongue Translator course. Fortunately, that job is finished, and we need to ship the machines to where the course will be held. Right now we are still looking at options. Please be praying that God would lead us to the correct method, and that the machines would all arrive safely.

Genesis and Jonah

I recently had the privilege of formatting the books of Genesis and Jonah for publication in an indigenous language. We are working with a partner organization, New Tribes Mission of Brazil, which will actually distribute the books to readers. Give thanks for this milestone, and pray that these Scriptures would touch the hearts of readers.

“Hello! May I help you?”

Another partner organization, *Asas de Socorro* (Mission Aviation Fellowship), is replacing their office phone system. They have asked for my help in setting up a VoIP system similar to the one we have in our office. This is a currently ongoing project.

I am working directly with their computer technician on this job. He is very bright and capable, but the difficulty is that the software configuration files are all in English! Please be praying that I will be able to explain them as we go, so that he will be able to “take ownership” of the system and maintain it himself.

Recent Projects

- Prepare 48 netbook computers for Mother Tongue Translator training workshop
- Format Genesis and Jonah for publication in an indigenous language
- Help partner mission to set up and configure a VoIP phone system for their office
- Create keyboards for members of another partner mission to use to write the language that they work with
- Adapt International Phonetic Alphabet Unicode keyboard to Brazilian layout
- Various hardware and software services for SIL members and others



Prayer

- Safe delivery of the netbook computers to the site of the training course
- That the MTT course would be fruitful, and that as many of the students as called by God would go on to translate His Word for their people
- To be able to completely set up and configure a VoIP phone system for *Asas de Socorro*
- Safe travel to and from the MTT course, and health and safety while there

Praise

- Being able to be here in Brazil at this important time, with so many opportunities to help bring God's Word to others
- Completing setting up the 48 netbook computers for the MTT course
- Finishing Genesis and Jonah and preparing them for publication
- Initial progress in the *Asas* phone project

Hey, I hope you have a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year. May 2012 be a year of blessing and joy, serving our Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

Bill

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

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