

March 2024



The very cute Suki Socks insisted that she re-e-ally wanted to come with me to Brazil, but I had to insist that it was much better for her to stay home with Mom...

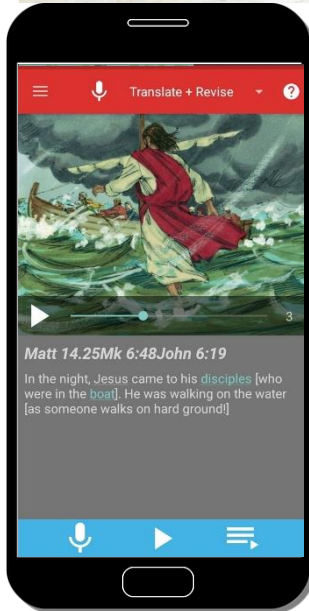


Photo op with some of my new friends at the international dress-up banquet. These beautiful Brazilian missionaries have said 'yes' to the Lord sending them to the Middle East, South Asia or Wherever! Meanwhile, they helped us Conference attendees in so many ways – toting heavy bags, fetching drinking water, interpreting, organizing logistics, etc. etc.

Brazil Bible Translation Consult



My five days at the YWAM Brazil-hosted Bible Translation Conference in São Paulo was super encouraging and confirming for what the Lord is doing in the Bible translation movement! Several dozen tribal translators plus translation facilitators and representatives from some 15 Bible translation organisations attended and made presentations. It was great to mingle and worship, learn, strategize and discuss how to help each other in the work.

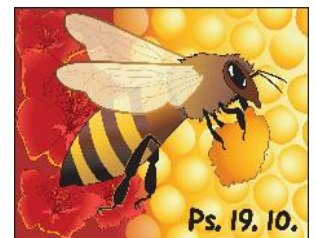


The conference had 4 or 5 languages going most of the time (Portuguese, English, Spanish, Brazilian Sign language and a tribal language). During seminar sessions, electronic headsets transmitted the simultateous interpretations from bilingual translators standing in the back.

I loved meeting in-person some of the passionate young people who have already been using the Story app. It was heart-warming to hear their unsolicited gratitude and stories about how helpful and user-friendly the Story app is.

There was quite a loud cry for translation and exegetical resources to be made more available and accessible (e.g. offline, in major languages other than English, less overwhelming), so this really confirmed to me the need to keep developing the Honey Bee app and resources.

It was wonderful to see and pray for many energetic, capable, multilingual young adults who are ready and willing to go to the yet unreached and to the remaining difficult-to-reach Bibleless language communities ... of which there are still 1000s! So much work yet to do!



the Honey Bee

An oral Bible translation workflow app with embedded exegetical helps for local language translators



Bible Translation “Taste” Bloopers

Frog plague or blessing? In the process of translating Exodus and the plagues that Yahweh brought on Egypt, one tribal community in Brazil, had an interesting challenge: they did not have just one general word for “frogs” like English and Portuguese has. They had many words for many different types of frogs. They chose one type to describe the frog plague. During the community check phase of the translation process, when non-translators were reviewing the bit about the piles of dead, stinking frogs, one tribal reviewer quipped, “What a waste of good food!” For him, the many frogs would have been a blessing, not a plague, because the translators had chosen a certain type of frog often eaten by their people. They realized that they needed to change their word for frog to a type that was not so deliciously savory. 😊

Bitter is wonderful? Another Brazilian tribal translation team were working on the book of Ruth. At one point, they had to translate Naomi’s other name Mara which means “bitter.” However, in the process of checking the translation, it was discovered that this tribe’s most favorite taste is bitter flavors. Bitter foods bring them much pleasure! So, in translating Mara as “bitter”, this gave the tribal community the wrong meaning. When they tasted “bitter” things, it put a smile on their face, not a heavy grimace. As they were hunting around for how to better translate “Mara”, a man from the community intentionally approached a facilitator eating a citrus fruit with a distasteful grimace on his face. Aha! For them, Mara means “sour”. That is the correct flavor for that meaning!



Ciro, a Brazilian oral translation trainer who has been training others to use the Story app, teamed up with me to present an overview of the SP app at the conference.

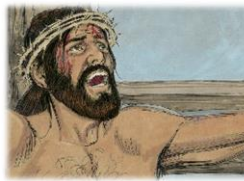
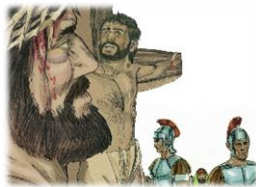
More Conference God-Stuff

I just “happened” to sit next to Fresia on the last day of the Conference. She has been working in Chile and Peru as a translation advisor and desires to do



more in exegesis. She wants to help us get more of the SP and HB app resources into Spanish! Thank you, Jesus, for divinely connecting us to partner in this work, enabling your Word to spread like wildfire.

During a break at the Conference, I was buying a souvenir T-shirt from this Brazilian YWAMer and when she realized I was the designer for the Story Publisher app, her face lit up and she told me she had brought the app to the **Surui** tribe and trained them to use it. Further, she said, “Thank you for persevering to make this app for the tribes! They loved hearing and seeing and understanding Easter in their heart language!”



Sunday’s a comin’!

Robin

Summary Prayer Items:

- Perseverance and wisdom in developing **Honey Bee app software** and **exegetical resources** to be ready for field testing by April
- The **Word to spread** like wild fire among the Bibleless!

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