

Bits from Bill

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

June, 2024



Eyeballs

On May 3rd, after months of waiting and preparatory exams, I finally received the cornea transplant on my right eye. The ophthalmologist was very satisfied with the result. Of course, I still have plenty of recovery ahead of me. And the transplant will not give me perfect vision. What it will do is allow corrective lenses to actually do their job and correct my vision 100%. Previous to the surgery, the best that a lens could do in my right eye was give me vision of less than 50%.

So please join me in giving tremendous thanks for this procedure. And pray that the end result would be zero astigmatism (astigmatism *does* depend on the cornea, whereas nearsightedness depends on the shape of the eyeball itself). I also hope to be able to use contact lenses after my eyes have recovered sufficiently.

And pray that I would be able to have the second eye done as soon after the Mother Tongue Translator course as possible, so that both eyes would be sufficiently recovered as to not cause any problems with my return to the States next February.

MTT Course

The third and final module of the current Mother Tongue Translator course will take place next month in the state of Mato Grosso. Because my eye has not yet recovered sufficiently, I will not drive over. I had a ride arranged both ways, but the outgoing leg fell through. So I will fly over and return via car, as a passenger.

At the end of this module, the participating indigenous groups will have the first six chapters of Nehemiah, translated and checked and available to be distributed among their people. And they will have acquired the skills necessary to continue the work of Bible translation into their own languages. The course is only the beginning; there is still much work to do!

So please give thanks for the progress that the MTT students have made so far. And keep praying for this module, that all of the participants—students and staff—would remain healthy and arrive safely in Mato Grosso, and return home safely afterwards. And pray that the students would not only finish well, but that after the course they would each continue in the translation work, until the task is finished.

Financial Need

As I've mentioned in previous communications, I will be returning to the States next year for my usual furlough. I will be there for most of the year. I would remain for a full year, but the 6th MTT course begins in January of '26, and I need to be here for that.

In the past couple of years, my financial support level has fallen quite a bit. Some long-time supporters have dropped off. (Maybe people think I'm retired and drawing Social Security. I'm not; I don't plan to retire for another three and a half years.)

Anyway, I need to get my support level up. But I cannot stay extra time in order to do so, because of the MTT course. So please be praying for this need! It may seem difficult, but nothing is impossible for God!

On the positive side, I will not be needing long-term commitments. Because I will be retiring after my next field term, I will only need this support for a few years.

Furlough Housing

I had hoped to stay in the same apartment in Tucson where I stayed in '20. However, that apartment will not be available. So I need to look for another (good!) place.

There are still several months before I arrive in Tucson. Nevertheless, I would like to make this need known as soon as possible, so that everyone could be praying for it. (And if anyone knows of a place in Tucson, preferably in the northwest part of town, available for an affordable rent, please let me know!)

Thanks for praying about this.



Right Eye with New Cornea

Praise

- For a successful cornea transplant!
- For the recovery that I have made so far following the eye surgery.
- For the progress that the MTT students have made in the course.
- For the translated portion of Nehemiah that the MTT students will take home to their peoples.
- That I only need support for one more field term, before I retire.

Prayer

- That after my eye recovers from the surgery, there would be zero astigmatism left.
- That I would be able to have the transplant on my left eye soon after the MTT course ends.
- For safe travels for everyone to and from the MTT course, and for continued health.
- That God would provide for my financial need, so that I can return for the next MTT course.
- For a good, *affordable* place to stay in Tucson.

Yes, a lot of things happening.
Thank you again for praying!

Bill

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

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