

Prayer and Praise Update

February, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings again from Brasília!

Last month, I reported about the Mother Tongue Translator course and the time that I spent there. This month the big thing related to Bible translation has been the beginning of this year's Linguistics course at ALEM. We have a somewhat smaller class this year—no one from Pioneer Bible Translators this time—but this class includes several couples where only one member is actually doing the course. It also includes some people who have been in ministry for various lengths of time and are looking to increase their skills in language acquisition and other translation-related subjects. We have students planning to go to places such as Africa and Asia. So please give thanks for this new group of students who are preparing for further service in the Kingdom of God. And join me in praying for them as they tackle new and often difficult material.

Speaking of students, I am happy to report that one of the students from last year is already out working in a village with the indigenous group that she had been planning to work with. For the past two and a half weeks, she has been doing sociolinguistic survey (this deals with how language is used in a given culture and society), in preparation for beginning language acquisition, which is the first step in any translation program. In addition, three other students have been invited to spend two months with another indigenous group in order to provide continuity while the principal translator takes medical leave. While these former students will not all end up working long-term with this group (one may), it will nevertheless be a great opportunity to not only gain further experience with an actual translation project, but to actually get some real translation work done for this people group. So please give thanks for these former students having already gotten this far, and keep praying for them as they take these beginning steps in becoming actual Bible translators.

Finally, my eyes. I recently finished the final pre-operative exam and have scheduled a return visit with the cardiologist, in order to get final official approval. During my first visit, he did not find anything that would keep me from getting the surgery done, so this step is largely a formality. But it is a necessary step, and I give thanks that it is nearly finished. So please join me in giving thanks, and do keep praying for the surgery, that it would accomplish everything that the LORD has in mind for it, and would truly be one more step towards whatever goal He has for my future.

So please give thanks:

- For the new class of Linguistics students here at ALEM, and for their ministry vision.
- For the students from last year's class who are already at work in a translation project, or who will shortly be going to one.
- For accomplishing the final major step before being able to get the cornea transplant.

Please pray:

- For the new class of Linguistics students who have begun studying here at ALEM.
- For the former students who are beginning translation work, that God would guide and sustain them in this Kingdom task.
- That the rest of the cornea transplant process would continue to go well.

Being a part of helping to train new Bible translators, here in Brazil,

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