

Prayer and Praise Update

July, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Brasília!

Last Saturday, I arrived home from the Mother Tongue Translator course, which was held at the AMMI Bible School near Chapada dos Guimarães, in the state of Mato Grosso. The course lasted three weeks, and ended with all eleven ethnic teams receiving 10 copies of the first through the beginning of the seventh chapter of Nehemiah. In addition, this same passage—which went through all of the normal checks for translated scripture—was professionally recorded by a team from *Faith Comes By Hearing*. And lastly, a phone application was created from the same text, which any member of their language community—and these days, nearly all indigenous people have cell phones—can download and install. But the main job, without which none of these would have been possible, was done by the students themselves, namely the actual translation of this portion of the Word of God.

My part in this process involved printing the booklets and putting them together. Doing the same thing, over and over, can get a bit old after a while. But when I looked at the stacks of booklets, and thought about how this was God's inspired Word in a format that could communicate with these people in their heart language, all I could think was that it was worth it. This was the biggest reason why I was there. This was why *all* of us who participate in Bible translation are here in Brazil, and everywhere else in the world where translation is taking place.

We are here so that people can come to understand God's message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The trip home afterwards was fairly uneventful. Instead of stopping halfway, the people that I rode with chose to do it all in a single day. That meant starting at 3:30 in the morning and driving in the dark for the first few hundred kilometers, but we arrived in Brasília just as the last of the daylight was disappearing. The next class is scheduled to start in January of '26, and I plan to be back from my furlough in time to participate.

My eye continues to recover from the surgery. I now have a partially-corrective lens, and I can already see the difference. The ophthalmologist is encouraged enough that he hopes to do the left eye some time in September. Right now, the most important thing is for the donated cornea (the upper part) to completely fuse with the base (what remains of my original cornea). This will take time, but I am praying that the Lord would make it happen as quickly as possible, to help facilitate the transplant for the left eye.

So please give thanks:

- For the finished portion of the book of Nehemiah, which the students at the MTT course could take home to their people.
- For a safe trip home after the end of the course.
- For continued recovery progress in my right eye, following the transplant.

Please pray:

- That the MTT students would continue where they left off, until all of God's Word is available for their people groups.
- That I would be able to return from my time in the States as planned, in time to participate in the next MTT course in '26.
- That the new and old corneas would quickly fuse, to help my vision return completely to normal in my right eye.

Helping facilitate the training of indigenous Bible translators in Brazil,

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