

Prayer and Praise Update

May, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings again from Brasília!

It has now been four weeks since I had the eye surgery. On Wednesday, I had a return appointment with the ophthalmologist, and he continues to be very satisfied with the result and my rate of recovery. He has scheduled another return visit for the 21st of June, and at that time he hopes to be able to prescribe a corrective lens, so that I will begin to actually see much better out of my right eye.

Recovery will continue to take time, but at this point, I am able to function fairly normally. I still can't drive beyond the local part of town, but hopefully that will change when I get the corrective lens. Of course, my vision in that eye will continue to change as the remaining post-operative swelling goes down, and the doctor said that this could take a few months. But at that point, the astigmatism in my right eye should be drastically reduced—or even gone. I will still have nearsightedness, since that is caused by the shape of the eyeball. But my vision should then be completely correctable with a lens—perhaps even a contact lens, which would be a real blessing.

And once the right eye is seeing well, with a proper corrective lens, I should be able to have the left eye done.

So please give thanks for the surgery, and for the recovery process so far. And please join me in praying that the final result would be vision completely correctable with a contact lens. And pray that I would be able to have the left eye done as soon as possible after the Mother Tongue Translator course module in July, so that both eyes would be sufficiently recovered by the time I return to the States next February, so as not to cause any problems.

Speaking of the MTT course, there is no reason why I cannot go. And this final module is the most important one; the students will finish their work on the first half of Nehemiah and get it ready for publication—so that their peoples will actually have this portion of Scripture translated into their languages when the course ends. Please give thanks for their progress in the course and for this translation, and keep praying that all of them would be able to finish the course—and then continue in translation work afterwards, since the course is only a beginning.

Because of the logistics of having to frequently put in eye drops, I will not be driving to the MTT course this time. I had a ride arranged both going and coming, but the trip out has fallen through. So I will be getting a plane ticket for the trip out, but I will still have a ride on the way back.

So please give thanks:

- For the eye surgery, and for excellent progress in the recovery phase.
- That I will have no problem being able to participate in the final module of the MTT course.
- For the translated portion of Scripture that will be available to the MTT students' peoples after they finish the course.

Please pray:

- That my eye would continue to recover well from the surgery, and that the end result would be vision completely correctable with a contact lens.
- That I would be able to have the left eye done as soon after the MTT course as possible.
- That the MTT students would finish well, providing an already-translated portion of Scripture for their peoples—and that they would all continue in the work after the course finishes.

Improving my vision in order to better serve Bible translation in Brazil,

Bill Penning

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