

Seeing Clearly

Dear Friends,

For the first time in my life I can see Keith's face, in focus, from across the room—with my right eye. Three weeks ago I had cataract surgery on that eye. The doctor took out the old lens and put in a new, man-made one. Less than an hour later I was back home.

Since my left eye has not been operated on yet, I walked around for the first few days with an eyepatch over one or the other eye. They put a clear glass in the right side of my glasses and left the very strong correction in the left side. When I put that on, I saw one and a half Keiths. We had to do something with my computer glasses, too. It all took a while, but then this brain—also divinely designed—somehow began to synthesize these new sight signals. Now I read, walk down stairs, and even bike to the store.

This all has given me a new appreciation for the way God originally designed our eyes. Yes, I've needed corrective lenses of some sort since I was 10 years old. There's a lot amiss in this world, not just my eyesight. But God doesn't leave us in our muddled mess. *Through the Son, God also reconciled all things to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, thereby making peace through the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:20*

One of our Student.Go interns and I have been studying that, through *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself*. We've discussed different kinds of poverty—spiritual, social, and material. We've discussed how Jesus came to restore us, on all those levels, and how He invites us to join in that work of reconciliation.

It's given me a new perspective on the Moldovan sister in Christ who recently asked us to put a new roof on her house. If you'd like to discover why just sending the cash to get that done might not be very restorative—for her or for us—I invite you to take this [online course](#) with us. In the meantime, I'd appreciate prayer for our Moldovan sister. A new perspective has not yet led to a clear course of action.

And I'd also appreciate prayer for my second cataract surgery, scheduled for August 16.

Theoretically I'll be able to see just one Keith with both eyes afterwards.

Praying for restoration,

Mary VanRheenen & Keith Holmes

Thankful for:

- how we are "fearfully and wonderfully made;"
- work of Student.Go interns Jaya and Songz and their contributions on [the Romany Education Network](#) as well as for [the Dom Research Center](#);
- eye doctors, technology, and the creativity our Creator has given us;
- our brothers and sisters in Moldova who are so rich in so many ways.

Request prayer for:

- Keith, and the Lord's timing his next recording project, possibly in Serbia;
- Daughters Ellen & Rebecca who will receive their second COVID vaccinations soon and can begin working again;
- Petru & Olesea Ciochina and Bethlehem Baptist Church in the Romany village of Vulcanesti, Moldova; they hope to organize their own vacation Bible school, possibly done entirely without outside volunteers, soon.
- restoration of Mary's long-distance vision, second cataract surgery on August 16.

Contributions to the Offering for Global Missions provide for the presence of all field personnel, including Keith and Mary (online giving: www.cbf.net/offering-for-global-missions).

Contributions to Keith and Mary's programming fund their specific ministry (online: [Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen programming](#)).

Or mail to: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 102972, Atlanta, GA 30368-2972, checks clearly marked for either OGM or Holmes/VanRheenen Programming.