

THE GIFT OF SIGHT

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."
— Hebrew Proverbs 29:18.*

BY ADRIENNE PAPP



DR KERRY ASSIL

■ *It's no coincidence the idea of moral vision is forever linked with actual vision, because both require the ability to "see," and thus to sense what is real and possible.*

Few understand the true value of vision better than world renowned ophthalmologist Dr. Kerry Assil. .

The mantra at Dr. Assil's vision center in California is simple:

"There is no one-size-fits-all in treating eye disorders. Every patient's diagnosis and treatment needs are different," he says, adding, "We work very, very hard to ensure our patients are fully informed and involved in their own treatment, and are at ease in our care.

What sustains me in the field," he says, "is how valued the sense of sight is and what an emotional and life-changing decision it is for people to have eye surgery. I celebrate with them every day after their surgeries."

If you're not among the doctor's 30,000 patients, you may have seen him on Good Morning America, The Today Show, Extra or Inside Edition. He has authored more than 100 medical textbook chapters and articles, helped train thousands of other physicians, lectured at Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities, and his skills and very human touch earned Dr. Assil the prestigious Jules Stein Living Tribute Award from UCLA, one of his alma maters.

He has been profiled in scores of publications, and is the official LASIK surgeon for all four major Southern California sports teams.

Dr. Assil's patients range from celebrities including Brad Pitt, Courtney Cox, basketball stars John Salley, LeBron James and Rip Hamilton, to everyday people like Lia de Firmian of Santa Barbara, California.

De Firmian was nearly blind until Dr. Assil performed a revolutionary procedure, inserting plastic lenses behind her corneas to correct severe myopia. De Firmian was among those who, for medical reasons, was not a LASIK candidate.

Characteristically, Dr. Assil is at the forefront of the rare 20-minute operation, as he is with LASIK and emerging procedures and treatments for cataracts and other disorders.

"We strive to ensure that no one in this wondrous world today should lose their eyesight, or endure compromised vision. Not with the advances being put into play today, and others that are just around the corner."

Dr. Kerry Assil is Medical Director and CEO of the Assil Eye Institute in Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, California.

www.assileye.com