

the Johnson's missionaries to *Brazil*

July 10, 2016



Ministry is busy no matter where you are. The past few weeks have flown by. After returning from Salvador (the city that we will be ministering in), we started our third session of language school. The end of May also marked the beginning of winter here in Brazil. It is natural to think because Brazil is in South America that it is warm. However, Sao Paulo is in the south of Brazil, which means you are moving further away from the equator. Winters in Sao Paulo are normally mild, so of course, we left all of our winter clothes packed away in the States. Brazil is now experiencing one of the coldest winters on record! Temperatures overnight have gotten down into the low 30's. You may be thinking that temperatures get much colder in the USA; however, houses and buildings there have two technological marvels called "central heating" and "dual-pane insulated windows"; both of which are not common in Brazil! Needless to say, when temperatures get down into the thirty degrees outside, it is thirty degrees in our house and in the language school as well. It is just God's way of reminding us to not get comfortable here in Sao Paulo!

During the last month, I had the opportunity to preach at our church's "Teen Valentines Banquet" (Valentine's Day is in June here in Brazil) to a group of about 30 teens. It was a great experience, with many teens making decisions about the types of relationships they are involved in. Afterwards, I told our pastor that this was the last time I wanted to preach in English here in Brazil. Our pastor decided to hold me to that statement and at the beginning of this month asked me if I would be ready to preach in Portuguese this month. Well... what could I say? I committed a long time ago to never pass up the opportunity to preach. So, if everyone would spend the next 3 weeks in fasting and prayer... I will be preaching for the first time on July 27th. At this point, "preaching" means writing out a message in English, doing my best to translate it into Portuguese, working with someone who knows both English and Portuguese to correct it, and then reading it to the congregation. If you have ever heard me preach, then you know that reading a message is about 100 miles outside of my comfort zone, but it is a baby step in the right direction and I am excited about the opportunity. Since we are in our winter break from language school, I will be able to devote more time to being ready.

While we do have a one month break from language school, it will not be a vacation for us. This first week of July we are helping in VBS at our church, next week we are on a team that is holding VBS across town in an area where our church will be planting a new church, the following week we will be going up to Bahia (the state where we will be ministering) to visit a missionary who is working in a city about 80 miles north of Salvador. This will also be the first time that Lincoln and Lauren will have the opportunity to visit Salvador, they are very excited! The following week is the week that I will be preaching in church and another missionary friend of ours will be starting their new work that week as well. We will be helping them pass out invitations and get set up. Then language school starts back on August 1st.

Please continue to pray for us, that God will give us wisdom. There are so many more things going on and things we are praying about, but I do not have space for all of them in this update. We hope to get to some of them in our next update. God bless you all!

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