

the Johnson's missionaries to *Brazil*

August 24, 2016



Wow, what a past few weeks it has been! So many things have happened that it is hard to collect them all into one coherent update. When we sent out our last letter, we were preparing for a busy month and the last several weeks have definitely delivered. Because of the many different facets, this letter is arranged a little differently.

Church – If you remember from our last update, our church had two weeks of VBS in two different locations; one at the church property and another at a property across town where a new work will be planted. We were able to help out in several different ways and we saw many children saved during that time. Of course, the highlight of the month was my first opportunity to preach in Portuguese. What an amazing experience! It was truly a team effort as another missionary proofread and corrected the message after I translated it to Portuguese. Then another missionary listened and helped correct my Portuguese as I practiced. I preached (and by preached, I mean read what I had written) about how to keep our spiritual edge sharp for Christ. Thank God that many people were able to understand the message and told me that they were deeply challenged by it.

Missions Trips – Since our last update we have been able to host several people in our home. In June, we were able to host Matt Gardner in our home for about nine days. He was from Temple Baptist Church, in Herndon, VA and graduated Bible college with a missions major. He had come down to be a part of the Amazon Missions Trip (www.AmazonforChrist.org) and is praying about where God would have him. This month we were able to host Jeremiah and Stephanie Pyles from Lakewood Baptist Church in Chattanooga, TN. They were visiting for the Olympic Games Outreach Trip. Let me just take a moment to say that a mission trip is an amazing experience and an opportunity to see what God is doing around the world. If you ever had the chance to take one, do whatever you can to make it happen. It will change your life.

Personal – Naomi went to the doctors this past month because she had a growth on her wrist. The doctor ran some tests and found that it was a cyst and opted to remove it. We are so thankful that Sao Paulo has the top rated hospital in South America and they accept our insurance (Of course... for those thinking, “Well what does that mean, how good are hospitals in South America?” This particular hospital ranks in the top 60 in the world.) The cyst was surgically removed this past Friday and there were a few difficulties with a nerve being wrapped around the cyst, but the doctor said that it will only cause a little more pain and a little longer recovery. While we were not able to send this out in a letter for specific prayer on this, we’d like to say thank you to those who pray regularly for us. God knows everything we are going through and prayer works, even when we do not know enough to be specific. Please continue to pray for her recovery.

Future – We would have loved to be able to go over to Rio during the Olympics and pass out Gospel literature to the over 9,000,000 people that came to Brazil. However, because language school started back again, we were not able to go. Interestingly enough, the Paralympics (“para” is actually Greek, meaning “with the Olympics”, not short for paralyzed or paraplegic) will be held during our next one-week break from language school. Normally, over 2,000,000 people attend the Paralympics and we are looking into being able to go over and distribute some literature then. We also have an interesting ministry opportunity that God may be placing in front of us, but more of that to come later. Please continue to pray for us!

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