

the Johnson's missionaries to *Brazil*

October 13, 2016



Portuguese, like English, borrows many words from other languages. In class this month, one of the new words we learned was "estresse." When I signaled to the teacher that I did not understand the word, she looked at me very confused. She said that the word is an English word that they use in Portuguese. When I looked up the word, I found that it is our English word, "stress!" I had to laugh as I thought about how ironic it is that this is a word we have passed on to other cultures.

In spite of this, we decided to "stress" ourselves this past month by putting ourselves into new situations where we could minister. Then God decided to stress us even more! The first of these stressful moments was when we went to visit a missionary friend who was having an inauguration service. We wanted help with anything they needed for the service and to be a blessing. As the time to start drew near, I took up post at the front door greeting people as they came in. About 30 minutes into the service, the guest pastor who was supposed to be preaching had still not arrived. As we were singing the last song (for the second time), the pastor arrived but was taking a long time to come inside. The missionary looked at me and I motioned him to sing the song one more time. He ended the song, walked over to me at the door, said, "Go up and give your testimony or something," and walked out the door to see what was keeping the Pastor... ..When learning a language, it is necessary to have time to think of what you are going to say so that you can figure out how to say it using words that you know. Sometimes, you do not get this luxury.

Just a short time later, on our trip to Rio for the Paralympics, we went to a large Brazilian church. I did not realize that I had met the assistant pastor several years ago on our first trip to Brazil. When he saw me, he introduced our family and then said, "Pastor Johnson is learning Portuguese, so let's have him come up and give a testimony about how things are going." Talk about stress! There were probably 200 Brazilians there!

The highlight of the past month was going to Rio to pass out Bibles at the Paralympics. We were able to pass out several hundred Bibles to people as they entered and exited the complex. It was exciting to see Lincoln and Lauren boldly go up strangers and hand them a copy of the Bible. It was also inspiring to see people, some with severe handicaps, compete at a very high level. It was an incredible reminder to never make excuses and to never give up, no matter the challenges.

One other exciting way that God is using our language learning happened last week. In our language school, there are a few missionaries who are learning the language and some other students (all Korean except for us). Every Wednesday, there is a short service where they give the missionaries a chance to practice giving a short devotional. Students who are not Christians are not required to attend and many of them sit in another room during the service. When it was my turn to give the devotional, God laid on my heart to prepare a simple devotional on salvation. That morning before my devotional, one of the unsaved Korean students said she was going to sit in on my devotional because she wanted to hear me speak. This was the first time she had sat in a service and she was able to hear the Gospel! Please pray for the salvation of Michelle and her family.

There is so much more to relate, but space is short. Please continue to pray for us as we have several important ministry decisions that we need to make, which we will relate in our next letter. God bless you all.

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