

the Johnson's missionaries to *Brazil*



1 Year and Counting

One year ago today, at almost the same time that I am writing this, we landed in Brazil. I do not want to simply recount everything that has happened over the past year, as the majority of you have been with us since the beginning of our journey (and all of our prayer letters are available on our website). However, I wanted to send out a letter expressing how grateful we are for the year that God has given us.

It is always amazing when you look back over a year that the time has gone so quickly. When we arrived, we knew a few phrases of Portuguese, now we can hold conversations. When we arrived, we were homeless, car-less, phone-less, and could not do the most basic of things. Now we have each of those things and have travelled alone to other cities to share the Gospel. When we arrived, going to Brazil was a goal that had been reached. Now, our goals have grown and expanded to so much more than "getting to Brazil." So much has changed, but we are thankful for at least one constant in our lives, our God, who never changes. God has been so faithful to us over the past year and there have been too many blessings to count. I meet missionaries regularly whose families are unhappy that they are in a different country, yet both of our families have supported us completely since the start. Not only our families, but our home church has been such a great support, they are always available anytime we need anything and constantly encouraging us and telling us how proud they are of what we are doing on the field. Also, each of our supporting churches have been outstanding. Each one regularly keeps their commitment to support us financially and continue to cover us in prayers and not a week passes without a note from one (or more) encouraging us. It is never forgotten by us that each dollar that we receive was sacrificed by someone who wants to see the Gospel spread around the world.

A year never passes without the ups... and the downs. Hospital visits, being taken advantage of because you are a foreigner, the frustration of knowing what you want to say but not being able to communicate it to someone, longing for family and friends. Unfortunately, we have already seen some missionaries come and go. But, each of these are parts of growing and developing, flowers need sunshine and rain to grow. But, there is no question that the good days and the grace of God outshines all the clouds that come our way.

As we have now celebrated our first Christmas in Brazil, and are headed for our second New Year, we are even more excited about what God has called us to do than we were when we arrived. We are thankful to represent each of you and the cause of Christ here in Brazil.

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