



Dear Praying Friends,

August 2016

Our first and biggest news is that four of us have gained permanent status here in Brazil. Claire, thankfully, will not need this since she was born here. God gave us considerable favor in the eyes of individual people at the Federal Police, and all our paperwork went through smoothly. These processes are never necessarily easy. Everything has to be done in exactly the manner required. Thankfully, they accepted everything fairly quickly, fingerprinted and photoed us again and told us to come back in 60 days for our cards! We are excited to finally be permanently set here...although not forever beyond the reach of dreaded paperwork.

Another praise is that a young man named Raphael got saved last week after four months of a lot of us witnessing to him. A lot of us were at a birthday party for a church member, and he decided he was ready to accept the Lord as his Savior before we even got started. They also asked me to present the Gospel during the party! It was a blessing to be dealing with people who wanted their focus to continue to be on God even at a party. Now we are working on discipling him and baptism.

Please continue praying for us. It is wonderful to watch God working in people's hearts. We are counseling, teaching Bible studies, seeing people change, and sometimes heartbroken over their rejection of God. Either the Holy Spirit takes over in each individual life and does a work or there isn't a work. We can NOT accomplish this without your prayers. There is literally no way for me to begin to recount some of the situations we are dealing with, and many are private matters that we are counseling people about. On a weekly matter, we are dealing with cults (especially Jehovah's Witnesses), marriage counseling, new Christians, old Christians, major sin issues, some unbelievable tangles of relationships and some huge bitterness issues dating back many years. It makes me so thankful for the simplicity of the Gospel and the principles of being a Christian. We can take those simple things and apply them successfully to the tangled webs that people have woven. There is the comfort of being able to tell a heartbroken person that we know Someone who has the answers.

We do have a lot leading up until Christmas this year. We have a Men's Retreat this month, Ladies' Retreat next month, tons of holidays and special days, our anniversary conference in November, a supporting pastor visiting as well, and we are working on several other ideas. Our mid-week service is on Thursdays and most of our congregation cannot make it to the church for this due to work and distance. I'd like to start Wednesdays (or another day) house services, in addition to Thursday, in some of the further locations to be able to reach those people who live close, as well as visitors. We have already held one of these and had five visitors in our home. We also have another scheduled for next month about 2.5 hours from here on a Saturday. There are a lot of people living in that area who will not travel to our church due to distance. We also have a very faithful couple who has continued to come. We are praying this would really open some doors out there.

Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support. We need you so much. God bless and keep you.

Psalm 37:4, 5

Jon, Hannah, Joanna, Jason, and Claire

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