



April 2015

Dear Praying Friends,

It has been a very busy few months for us. Our co-workers, Dan and Becky Bennett, and their family, are actually back in the United States right now for six weeks to see their daughter graduate from college, so we are responsible for everything. We are still working hard at the language. Language school is over for us, but I'm still studying back through the book, listening to tapes of verb endings and conjugations, and practicing constantly. It is still a work in progress.

We survived Carnival in February. There actually had been talk of canceling it in São Paulo due to the water crisis, but unfortunately, they continued with it. Since we're in one of the two greatest cities in Brazil, we actually have over a million extra people come here for Carnival. Thankfully, our neighborhood ended up quieter than most. However, a few weeks ago, our neighbor across the street threw a loud party with a DJ and karaoke, which started at about 7 p.m. Saturday night and continued until just before 5 a.m. on Sunday morning...then resumed at about 9:30 a.m. We have floor fans to provide "white noise," but it still makes it a bit difficult to sleep and doubly hard to prepare for Sunday's services!

We have had a ladies' tea, as well as a Good Friday breakfast that were both well attended. Our services went very well on Easter, with a few visitors. Our church also celebrated March as our missions month, focusing on the examples of missionaries of the past, as well as opportunities in the future. We translated and shared quite a few quotes from people like Hudson Taylor, Adoniram Judson, and David Livingstone. Dan Bennett and I were also able to visit ReaTech this month. It is a very large exposition of new technology and accessibility advances for anyone with disabilities. Thousands of deaf people attend, and it highlights how fast things are changing here. The latest numbers we have list 210,000 deaf people in São Paulo alone!

We also are looking forward to having our first supporting church bring a missions team to visit us in June. Thankfully, our co-workers will be returning right before the team comes! Pastor Foster and a team from Valley Bible Baptist Church of Cobleskill, New York, are going to be with us for almost two weeks. We are planning to attend a large June festival for the deaf, as well as subjecting the team to public transportation, street food, and all the other things we enjoy here. Hopefully, they will not want to go home!

Thank you all for your prayers. The Lord is continuing to protect us day by day and to give us new opportunities to serve. We daily need wisdom, strength, communication skills, safety, and new contacts. Please continue to pray both for us and about whether the Lord would call you as well.

Psalm 37:4,5

Jon, Hannah, Joanna and Jason Speights

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