



THE *Speights* FAMILY

Jon, Hannah, Joanna, & Jason

April 2016

Dear Praying Friends,

God has been good to us over the past few months. Dan and Becky Bennett, our co-workers, returned to the United States on January 28 for furlough. This was a little bit earlier than originally planned, but the Lord had worked things out so that they had spectacularly cheap tickets. They are currently traveling all over, and we ask you to pray that they would be able to raise their support to 100%.

I (Jon) am doing well with the recovery from my ACL surgery. It has been four months and there still is some stiffness, but physical therapy is helping a lot. There have been a few issues with my back that we are going to look into, but for the most part, we are all happy and healthy. Hannah's health is doing very well. The kids are growing like weeds, and Claire especially is so much fun. I have been calling her the child of my old age. Thankfully, we have several apprentice diaper changers to help out.

Hannah and I are currently very busy with the church and Bible studies. We had a lady saved last week that Hannah is discipling, and we are working on tailoring more discipleship materials to various people. The deaf frequently have a wide range of language abilities. Material that works easily for someone who reads well will be well-nigh impossible for someone who cannot. Things are good at the church itself. We took a group of six men to a men's retreat yesterday in the city of Piracicaba and had a wonderful time. I drove seven hours and interpreted for four through the course of the day, so I am recovering a bit today. We just finished our missions month in March and had a real live Brazilian missionary come in and present his church-planting work. May 8 is our Mother's Day here, and we have a ladies' tea with a special speaker scheduled for the day before. Hannah is currently working on coordinating with another missionary family to record a CD in Portuguese. Please do continue to pray for the work and that we would see much fruit. I am still taking formal sign language lessons here to continue staying abreast of the changes that are happening rapidly.

Do be praying for us, please, about our paperwork. Our visas run out in August, but instead of trying for permanent status in the normal way through having had temporary religious visas, we are going to go through the process of gaining it as the parents of a Brazilian. We can start this much sooner, it should be cheaper, and it should be much simpler in terms of paperwork.

One announcement that needs to be made is that we are currently planning to start our first furlough at the end of March of 2017. That is literally a year from now, but many of your churches schedule meetings that far out on a regular basis. We probably will not need to raise any new support during this time, but we do need to report back to those of you who already are supporting us. I am starting to call our supporting churches right now in order to see what you would like us to do. Pastors, please let me know if there is a time after March 2017 that you would like me to come to your church to report.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. We do not take them for granted. There are times when I have to simply stop myself, look around, and thank God again that He has not only given me the burden and desire to be winning the lost here...but also fulfilling it. It is wonderful to serve God. The Lord bless you all.

Psalm 37:4, 5

Jon, Hannah, Joanna, Jason and Claire Speights

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