



**BRANDON & MARCI JONES** - Missionaries to Brazil

**February 2019**

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from ~~Porto~~ Porto Alegre. In Portuguese “forno” is the word for oven, so this nickname is a running joke all summer. As the polar vortex sweeps over North America we have had record-breaking highs. A few times the heat index has even reached 110 degrees Fahrenheit! We are truly on the opposite side of the world from where we once served in South Dakota!



We are so excited that our prayers were answered and we arrived here two days before the start of Brandon’s Old Testament Theology class. This was a two-week intensive course that con-cluded the semester before summer break. It is a tradition that after the final night of an intensive class, the professor buys everyone burgers at the restaurant next door. It is always a great time!



*In-class students. Other students tune in to class through Zoom Classroom software.*



*Seminary students celebrating the end of their semester.*

God has been faithful to us as we learn how to navigate our new home. We have a car, and our apartment is mostly setup. We have learned where the grocery stores are and how to get to most anything we need. We had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas as a family and with our missionary partners. During this summer break from school we have taken time to go on a couple of city tours as we try to soak in as much about this area as we can. We want to know the history of the city as this will help understand more about the culture and people.



*Daniel, Monica, and Olivia in front of the Christmas Tree.*

**PRAISES**

- We made it to Porto Alegre in time for Brandon’s Old Testament Theology Class.
- We set up our apartment and are blessed with a comfortable home.
- We discerned the schooling needs of each child. Our girls have also found friends and seem to be adjusting well to their new language and culture.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- For our language learning to go well and our continued acculturation.
- For our son Daniel to find an active youth group in the area with positive peers that speak some English to help him transition.
- For the remainder of our support to come in. We have not quite hit 100% funding.
- For the seminary students and the church planters in the region.

“ But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9



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We have been attending a small church in the suburbs of our city. The people there have been very welcoming, and we are so thankful for them. On our first Sunday in the country they hosted a surprise welcome party for us. They even worked hard to make signs that were in English. We took a church trip in December to a tourist city a couple of hours away called Gramado. We also had a church cookout with the traditional Brazilian grilled meats.



*Christmas cookout*



*Olivia and her friends in front of the camp sign.*

Both Monica and Olivia attended summer camp with other kids from our church at the Word of Life Bible Camp near our city. We are proud of our girls as they continue to be brave, not allowing language to be a barrier to relationships. We could all learn from them!



*Monica and her friends in front of the camp sign.*

February brings an end to summer break and the beginning of a busy schedule for us. We have enrolled all three kids in schools here in hopes to speed up their transition by giving them a chance to meet friends and become immersed in their new language. Monica and Olivia will be attending a bilingual school that has it's classes taught in Portuguese, but also has an English class. Most of the students know some English. The school has had several other expat students who have come into the school speaking no Portuguese, and they have helped them make that transition. Both girls are excited to go to school. The Brazilian schools are half-days, so Monica will be attending in the morning, and Olivia will be attending in the afternoons. Marci will be teaching one afternoon a week in the English classroom to help the students with their English pronunciation. We are enrolling Daniel in an international school. This option is a God-given blessing, as he is already halfway through his freshman year of high school. He can graduate from this school with a diploma that is acceptable at American colleges, while he will also have Portuguese classes and tutors to help him with his language learning, not to mention Brazilian classmates!

Starting next week Brandon and I will begin an intensive Portuguese course at a language school here in the city. We are starting with 2 days a week, 3 hours a day for the first 2 weeks, but once the kids start school we will switch to 4 days a week, plus hours of homework and required practice with people around our neighborhood. Please pray that our minds will be open, and we will be able to learn Portuguese well.

Brandon is teaching one class at the seminary next semester, Contemporary Theology. His seminary load will be light through the language-learning time. We ask that you continue to pray for the seminary's current students and future students. There is much work to be done in Southern Brazil, and we need committed faithful people to answer God's call to serve established churches and plant new churches in this region.

We are thankful for each one of you who are such an important part of our journey here. God has truly blessed us with an amazing team of partners. You all are such a vital part of what God is doing here in Southern Brazil. Each one of your prayers and financial gifts are part of God's greater story here.