



MAY 2026

THE SPACE IN BETWEEN

Praises

- For a meaningful semester of ministry, and the opportunity to teach, mentor, and walk alongside students.
- For the ways God is at work in our daughters' lives, even as they navigate this season of change and new beginnings.
- For God's faithfulness in this season, even in the midst of transition, as we see God at work in both our family and ministry.

Prayer

- Pray for wisdom and provision during this transition, as we make plans for the US from a distance while continuing ministry here. There are many details and financial needs, and we are trusting God to provide each step of the way.
- Pray for our daughters, Monica and Olivia, as they prepare for what's ahead and process the goodbyes.
- Pray for our students, that God would bring clarity, guidance, and the right opportunities as they take steps toward their callings.
- Pray for wisdom and endurance as we finish this term well, that we would be present with people God has placed in front of us.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

GALATIANS 6:9 (NIV)

Walking hand in hand with our youngest daughter, I, Marci, could feel the tension in her. She didn't have to say anything, but I could tell. These past few months have been heavy as she thinks about leaving Brazil and transitioning to life in the United States. I gave her hand a small squeeze, just to remind her I'm right here.

As we get closer to home assignment, both our girls are feeling it. Monica is preparing for college this fall, and Olivia will be starting her senior year of high school and will not be returning to Brazil for a third term with Brandon and me. There's a lot of good ahead, but also a lot of hard goodbyes. This "in between" space is hard to explain. Our girls feel Brazilian. After all, this is where their memories, friendships,



Monica and Olivia after getting their faces painted while visiting the Cipia tribe in the Amazon.

and everyday life have been, and yet they're stepping into the US—a place that's supposed to feel like home but doesn't fully feel that way.

I think in some ways it points to something deeper. As believers, we know our citizenship is in heaven. We build our lives here and love people deeply here, but there's always that quiet sense that this isn't our final home. And honestly, that's a little where we find ourselves right now, not just as a family but in ministry, too.

As we come to the end of this second term, we've been trying to finish well, making the most of the time and relationships God has given us. Brandon has had a busy semester teaching



Brandon and Marci with the students Larissa, Camila, Ana, Filipe, and Ítalo.

New Testament and Church History in our area, as well as an intensive Introduction to the Bible course in Santa Catarina. But in addition to teaching, we both feel that a lot of the ministry happens outside the classroom as well, sitting with students, listening to their stories, and walking with them as they try to understand what God is doing in their lives.



Students who attend the weeknight classes, most of whom live on campus.



Most of these students work through the week and take intensive classes on Saturdays.



Students of the intensive Intro to the Bible in Santa Catarina.

We have found a common understanding with the students, as we're not the only ones who feel that "in between." We see it in our students, too, as they prepare for what God has next, often without having all the answers yet.

One of those students is Ítalo Carmelio. Missions has been on his heart for a long time. He's spent years doing mission trips while living in Curitiba. He has traveled to places like Paraguay, Iguazu, Japan, Germany, and China, and when he talks about it you can hear the passion he has for the nations.

Brandon & Marci Jones

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That's part of why he came to the seminary. He wants to be prepared, to grow, and to better understand what God is asking of him, especially with his passion for discipling young people between 16 and 24. At the same time, he's still figuring things out, not knowing where God will call him after seminary or what preparation should look like to get there, wherever that may be.

And maybe that's part of this season for all of us—living in that space between what is known and what isn't yet clear, trusting God with what's ahead. For our girls, for Ítalo, for the other students, and for us, we're learning to take the next step with what God has already put in front of us, even when the road ahead feels uncertain.

We're so grateful for each of you who pray for us and support us. In a season like this, we're reminded that we're not walking it alone. Your partnership allows us to invest in students like Ítalo and to be present with our family through all these transitions. Thank you for being part of what God is doing here and for walking with us in it.

