

Back in the Amazon!

With my visa stuff done, I was able to make the move from East Brazil to West Brazil, where I'll be working in the long term. I'm so excited to be back in the Amazon! To find out more about what I'm up to, keep reading!



Rachelle and I finally together after a month of dating long-distance
Serving at Puraquequra (poo-ra-ke-QUA-ra)

As you know, I have been dating an amazing girl named Rachelle. She and I have been dating for 2 months now. The first month we dated long-distance, but we are finally together in the same geographical location.

I have moved to our missionary kid school, Puraquequara, where she has been serving so that the two of us have time to get to know each other better. When we're not spending time together getting to know each other, our responsibilities include teaching classes, working in the dining hall, and for me, working with the maintenance crew.

Our desire in the long-term is to serve the Lord together here in Brazil. Though we don't know exactly what that will look like, we truly believe it was God who has brought us together and we want to honor Him wherever he takes us.

Christ, Our Advocate

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

So, recently I've really been asking the Lord to show me how much He loves me because that's something I've really been struggling with. I guess it's easy for me to picture God as exacting, powerful, wrathful, and just, but I really have a hard time seeing His love, patience, and mercy.

But this verse to me is one of the most beautiful pictures of God's love that I've seen in a long time, Christ being our Advocate. What does that mean? When we sin, Christ is there for us. But He's not only there for us, He's FOR US, not against us. And he's for us even when we sin. Now don't get me wrong. He's not for our sin, but He is on our side no matter what, and our sin doesn't change that!

I guess this is so incredible to me because even though I knew God was for me, I think I thought that when I sinned he stopped being on my side and became a judge, but that's not true in the least. When we sin Christ stands up for us and is totally right in doing so. It says "if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins..." 1 John 1:9. Have you ever thought about that? It is just for Him to forgive our sins. Another way of saying that is he is right to forgive our sins. Forgiving our sins is the right thing for him to do. It's for this very cause that Jesus died for us so that we could be forgiven and experience his unconditional love.

May we all come to understand these truths about God's love more fully each day, "that we might be filled with all the fullness of God" Eph 3:19.

Prayer requests:

- Pray for Rachelle and me as we teach classes here at the school and look for opportunities to invest in the lives of the students and staff here
- Pray for our relationship, that we'd continue to grow closer to the Lord and each other
- Pray for wisdom in future plans

Thank you for keeping up with all that's happening in my life! As always, if there's anything I can be praying for you, let me know.

Anthony



My New Home!!

I can't believe this is my view every day! I live a few hundred yards from the Amazon River. I often enjoy watching these beautiful sunsets that God hand paints for us each evening