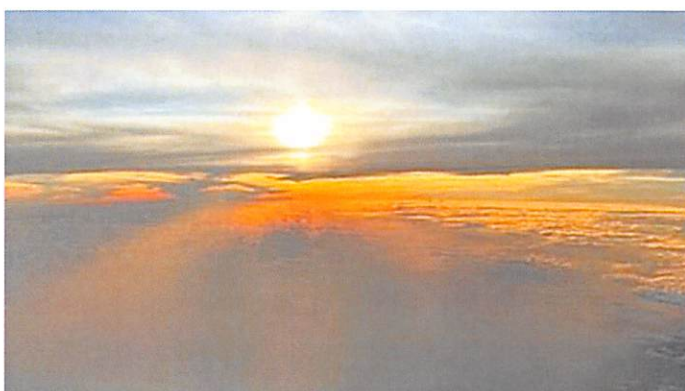




*For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ
2 Corinthians 4:6*

We're in the USA!

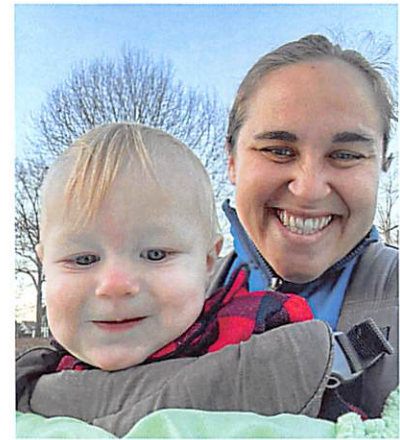


Dear friends and family,

We are writing to you from snowy Huntington, West Virginia, where we've been for the last three weeks or so. We are so thankful for this time we get to spend here, especially getting to see many of you all, as the Lord allows. Late on Jan. 1st, after all the preparations that come with moving, some hard goodbyes, and an eight-hour flight to Florida, we finally made it back on US soil! We tried our best to prepare our kids for things that are different in this culture such as, "Remember, toilet paper goes in the toilet in the states, NOT in the trash can like in Brazil." But, despite our efforts, we found ourselves in the customs line in Florida with Abby commenting, "Wow, a lot of people speak English here!" Apparently we had forgotten to mention that. But, the transition back has gone smoothly overall. We enjoyed a couple of weeks right away with both of our families, including a vacation with my parents and others. This was such a sweet time, a little reprieve from the flurry of activity that Home Assignment generally is. Since then, we picked up a leased minivan from Righteous Rides ministries and began our road trip from Florida to West Virginia in the wake of a winter storm. The Lord brought us here safely, and we've been loving time with our church family. We had a commissioning service to officially "Send us" to the X people, and we have been making the most of the opportunities to catch up with friends. We will make a very quick trip to WI and MO at the end of March, and then go back to FL in April, at which point we will be resting and preparing for our move back to Brazil in May.

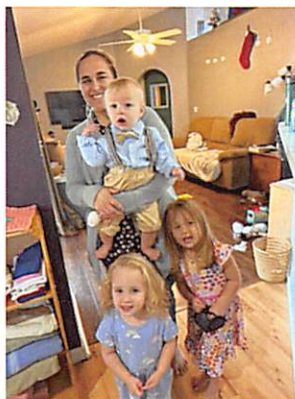
Back "Home"

Now, you may have noticed I put the word "home" in parentheses. That's because, the longer we live, the more that idea seems to develop. For Joanna, her home has almost always been Florida. For me (Spencer), it was mostly Paraguay, but the US and Canada were also places where I felt somewhat "at home." Now that we've left Brazil, our kids feel that we have left home and gone somewhere else, and they want to go back. All of this reminds us of the truth of Philippians 3:20: "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ". No matter where we are living or where we call, "Home", our true home is yet to come. We are now to be identified with Jesus and look forward to our ultimate "homecoming" when God dwells forever with us. But not only will it be our home, we also get the incredible privilege of extending God's unfathomable offer of adoption as sons to those who are still orphans.



What's Next?

After we move back to Brazil in May, we will be living in the large city of Manaus temporarily until we can build our house in the tribe among the X people group. We are hoping and praying that this can be accomplished by the end of the year.



Praises & Prayer Requests

Praises

- For safe travels and a good overall transition so far.
- For this time with our families and friends here.
- For Abby's continuing growth in the understanding of God's love for her in Christ.

Prayer requests

- For steadfastness in the Lord, in our marriage & family, and in ministry.
- For wisdom in when to say "yes" and when to say "no." Intentionality to rest.
- For wisdom for us in how and when to build our tribal house as there are many unknowns

*All for His glory,
Spencer & Joanna
Abigail, Gabriella, and Judah*

1 Thess. 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



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