



*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

### *Changing seasons*

Dear friends and family,

We hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving, and though we are quickly approaching Christmas, we want to take a moment to thank you all for being on this journey of tribal church planting in Brazil with us. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for the Lord using YOU in our lives, and we genuinely mean that. We thank God for YOU. We thank Him for the last year and a half, when we had the privilege of studying Portuguese and Brazilian culture in Vianópolis, Brazil. This semester is not what we expected, especially with the sudden loss of our Portuguese teacher, Ana, in August and Spencer's subsequent role as interim Portuguese grammar teacher. However, we have seen the Lord's hand in it, and we are thankful.



We have officially finished the semester, and now we've entered a busy Christmas season! We hope that each one of you has a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Redeemer! Merry Christmas to all! For us, these days are filled with many goodbyes, Joanna's Portuguese evaluation (Dec. 18-19), celebrating on Christmas day, and packing before our arrival to the States at the beginning of January.



*Busy "Rest" season coming up 😊😊*

That leads us to our next steps. As mentioned, we head to the states in January! We are so excited to see those of you we can, and we plan to spend the bulk of our time in West Virginia, with time in Florida being bookends of this "home assignment." We will also be making a trip to Wisconsin and Missouri at the end of March, but it will be a quick one. At this point, we are hoping to be in the states until early May, at which point we will move to Manaus, Brazil in preparation for our move to our permanent ministry location with the X people group.



*Reflection — "Whoever has left brothers or sisters shall receive a hundredfold" — Matt. 19:29*

In looking back on the last year and a half, we think of why we came to a small Brazilian town in the middle of nowhere in the first place. Why come here to learn about Brazilian culture and study Portuguese instead of studying remotely from the US? Of course, it makes a lot more practical sense to be immersed in a language and culture. But, why is that? It comes down to relationships. The reason that we even did this step of learning was so that we could develop relationships with our Brazilian brothers and sisters in Christ and learn as much as possible from them. Now, we are so grateful as we prepare to join an existing team with Brazilians. However, we are also saddened, because this means that we have to say hard goodbyes to those whom we've come to know and love in this corner of Brazil. One such couple is Diego and Thais. These friends from church have been such a blessing to us every Sunday we interact at church and beyond. Not only has Thais helped teach our girls about Jesus in Sunday school, but they as a couple have taught us things about their language and culture, and Diego taught us both how to drive a boat. It is these "See you later's" that will be one of the hardest parts of the next few months. We would appreciate your prayers for us in this as well as for our brothers and sisters here that also grieve the loss of yet another family coming through for a short time.



## *Praises & Prayer Requests*

### **Praises:**

- The Lord continues to show us daily grace beyond measure according to His riches in Christ Jesus.
- For our much-anticipated Home Assignment (formerly called furlough) Jan.-April.
- For what all we've learned in Vianópolis and for those we've gotten to know.

### **Prayer requests:**

- For us to finish well in Vianópolis, especially saying goodbyes well
- For our kids in all the transitions coming up
- For Joanna's next Portuguese evaluation Dec. 18-19

Thank you so much for keeping up with us and for your prayers and support! Please reply to this email and let us know how you are doing and how we can pray for you, as well!

All for His glory,  
Spencer & Joanna  
Abigail, Gabriella, and Judah  
1 Thess. 5:16-18



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