



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV

1 Year in!

Dear friends and family,

We are currently celebrating ONE YEAR of living in Brazil! We praise God for His faithfulness to get us here and for all that He has done in this past year, and we thank Him for each one of YOU, because without your prayer and financial support from the beginning, we wouldn't have been able to come. Thank you all for continuing to be behind us! In the past year, we have... moved to small-town Brazil, bought a car, took a 2-day road trip to see the ocean, made many friends, celebrated many birthdays, celebrated a wedding, saw a funeral, celebrated Christmas, visited the Amazon River, met fellow missionaries and indigenous people, became conversational in Portuguese, and had a baby! Not too bad, eh?

What We're Up To Now...

Additions

As we wrote in our last mini-update in March, we welcomed our son, Judah Immanuel Goddard to the outside world on March 24th! Since then, we all (including his big sisters) have loved all the baby snuggles and (more recently) smiles and coos. He is growing fast, and he gets plenty of attention, both inside our home and when we're out and about. Then we have Abby, who turned three on April 21st! Our little girl loves to sing, listen to and tell stories, spend time with friends, and play tag (or some variation) with her sister. Gabriella, our curly-haired one, has gone from not being able to crawl a year ago to now running, climbing, forming short sentences, and being much more social.





The One Who Goes Before Us and Goes with Us

About a month ago, we had to go to the American Embassy to apply for a Certificate of Birth Abroad and Passport for Judah. We were so thankful that another American family had just gone through the same process with their daughter and were able to give us the run-down of what they did. However, we made the trip to Brasília (2½ hours from us) the day before our appointment and only that night realized that we didn't have all the documents we needed. We were in our hotel room figuring out whether I (Spencer) should sacrifice sleep and drive back that night to get them or not. As we were praying about it, however, God brought to Joanna's mind the fact that we had some digital copies of documents that MIGHT work. We decided to try to use that; so, in the morning we hurried to a print shop as soon as it opened, got our documents, and made it to the embassy in time for our appointment. As it turns out, we were the only ones being attended the whole time we were there, and it went smoothly and quickly, with all of our documents being accepted! Now, as we continue to consider ministry with the X people group that we have mentioned previously, we have found ourselves trying to talk to as many people as possible who have some kind of experience with this people group. In both cases, we believe it was wise for us to seek that help and insight from those who have gone before us. But, ultimately, we have been resting in the Lord, who goes before us. Just as Moses said to Joshua when "passing the baton" to him in Deuteronomy 31:8, "And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed." It is such a comforting thing to know that our God goes before us AND is with us. We did our best to prepare for our embassy appointment, but ultimately, our planning failed, and God still saw us through. We could tell more stories, for example, how our car recently broke down 50 feet from a mechanic's shop, but we don't have the space here. But, we know that, just as He has gone before us each step of the way and has been with us in this first year in Brazil, He will continue to "go before us" and be with us, whether we work with the X people or not, no matter when we finish our Portuguese studies, and wherever He takes us.



When will you come back to the States?

As far as our timeline goes, we are hopeful that at our next Portuguese evaluations next month Spencer will be released from the program, allowing Joanna to focus more on language study thereafter. Then, if possible, our goal is for Joanna to test out of Portuguese by the end of the year, allowing us to spend the first part of 2025 (3 months or so) in the states. However, this is all subject to change at this point, and the Lord knows how it will all work out.



Praises & Prayer Requests

Praises:

Judah's paperwork is in process

We continue to grow in our understanding of Portuguese and Brazilian culture

Visits from friends and family in recent months (Spencer's parents, friends from our home church, Joanna's brother)

Prayer Requests:

Continued work on Judah's paperwork and ours as we can work toward our permanent visas

Upcoming trip in August to visit the X people group and meet the team + wisdom in deciding if this is where God has us long-term.

Our 2nd language evaluation is coming up in July (next month!) Please pray for clear minds and accurate results.

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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