



The HUGGINS FAMILY

Missionaries to **BRAZIL**



I Corinthians 3:7
So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

January - February 2021

We praise the Lord for getting us through 2020 healthy, safe, and settled and allowing us to finish our course for the year with joy serving the Lord in Brazil. January 2021 marks 1 year since our family arrived in São Paulo, Brazil and we wish you all could know how grateful we are for all your prayers, support, and encouragement throughout the past year. By God's grace, we reached many of our goals and are looking forward to what is ahead in 2021 if the Lord tarries.

We have great news about our residency permit, we were notified on March 9th that the renewal was approved with 2 years permit! It was a small miracle to overcome the many unforeseen hurdles of 4 different agents handling our file, employee layoffs in the immigration agency, government offices closed most of the time due to holidays or lockdowns and finally having to request all new documents from our sponsoring church in São Paulo because none of them were accepted by the Brazilian officials because of a minor technicality with the documents dated for 2020. God is good and got us over each of them! Our case was turned over to a supervisor in the agency for priority, the government offices opened for just enough time so our documents could be submitted and processed, and a brother in the church, who is an attorney, stepped in and helped get all the paperwork from our sponsoring church. It literally came down to the wire, with us receiving the last document we needed the day of our deadline just in time to be submitted. We are currently under the strictest quarantine since all this began and once things reopen we will meet with the Federal Police to get our residency cards reissued. We thank everyone who prayed specifically about this process and know that it would not have been processed during the lockdowns without your prayers for the Lord to intervene.

Every week we have been out to the street markets evangelizing at two different locations. The good thing is that the markets are considered essential so they are allowed to operate even during the quarantine. Also, in January and February we went up to Paulista Avenue, one of the most elite commerce area in the city and passed out tracts as we walked each side of the 8 lane, 1.7 mile city street. Some compare it to New York City's 5th Avenue for business and shopping but the truly unfortunate similarity to NYC is that many people rejected the tracts compared to our usual encounters in other poorer areas of the city. I've been to poorer sections of the city and was able to get out all the tracts I carried in a short time and I am hoping to return there with some of the brothers from church once we are at liberty again to be out on the streets. Early in March we were also able to get our car to São Paulo and have the inspections done and get the title transferred. It's a blessing to have it and we hope to be able to explore some new areas for street evangelism that have been difficult to reach by public transportation.



Our language classes are going really well, and my wife and I have separated our classes so we can focus more on our different learning levels. We have enjoyed a couple of months of in person lessons but everything is now back online and we are hoping and praying it's only for a short time. Our teacher **Bruna** who we asked prayer for previously is a strong Catholic but she remains open to our witness. She has read "The Simplicity of Salvation" and had some questions from it and also recently she began helping me learn how to clearly present the "wordless book" in Portuguese. Both of those have opened up several in depth conversations on what the Bible says about salvation. She has recently told me and my wife at different times that it is hard to change from being a Catholic. The Lord is dealing with her heart and we ask for your continued prayers for her salvation and for God to give us wisdom in witnessing to her.

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~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

- Salvation: Louis & his family, Aurea, Noemia, and Bruna
- Health, safety and covid situation in Brazil
- Our apartment situation and the Lord's direction

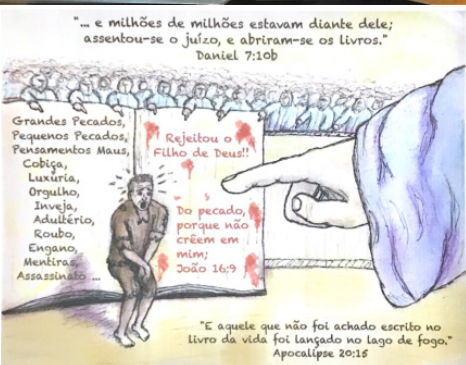
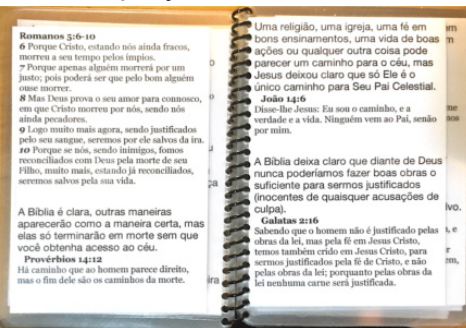
~ THANKSGIVINGS ~

- Residency renewal was approved
- Henrique's work translating Bible-believing material
- Progress with Portuguese & witnessing opportunities

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On more of our direct chances to witness to people was in January when I took our daughter Elaina out of the apartment to the common area to play outside during the quarantine and I met one of our downstairs neighbors named **Louis** with Max his little boy who is close to Elaina's age. He was curious what I was doing in Brazil and that opened a good opportunity to witness to him. Not long after I was shut down and he let me know that he was a Jew and would not come to our church. The kids played and we talked a good while and he remained guarded until the conversation came to the history of the Jews. I was able to tell him a little about what the Bible said of Israel's future and that they are still God's chosen people. He was completely surprised by this and said he had never heard of a Christian that believed these things, afterward he opened up again. We met a few times since then but only for brief conversations but he saw me leaving for church one Sunday and he asked that we pray for him. We have had other opportunities with our next door neighbor, **Aurea** who is an elderly lady



that speak English well. She cares for her mother **Noemia** who is nearly 100 and they love seeing our daughter Elaina. We are hoping to have some other chances to witness to each of them and ask for your prayers about this.

Early in the year I had a Brazilian from another city in the northeast reach out to me from our website looking for a church in his area. His name is Henrique and he trusted Christ after watching an American preacher online clearly explain the gospel. He was a help to me with proof reading our tract and Dr. Ruckman's booklet "The Simplicity of Salvation" in Portuguese along with some Bible study material we are planning to use in the near future. He has a desire to translate Bible believing material into Portuguese and we are hoping to help him in that ministry. This was a direct answer to prayer for me since even before we came to Brazil. A longterm goal is to be able to print and distribute foundational Bible believing material for the people here to study on their own and be grounded in good doctrine from God's word. I have been able to purchase some basic printing equipment and have started printing "The Simplicity of Salvation" booklet. I also put together a street witnessing handbook to help me when I am soul winning. The booklet has illustrations and about 30 questions or thoughts along with the verses that I can read if I get stuck trying to converse in Portuguese.

Regarding to things happening on the home front, our landlord messaged me in January that he is going to sell the apartment because of the financial situation he is in. At first this was discouraging but later we took it as from the Lord and that this may be Him directing us out of the city. We were hoping to be here at least another year or until we become fluent in Portuguese before moving to another city to try to plant a church. We love the church here and have learned so much from them. We would like to stay in São Paulo while we learn the language but we are committed to wherever the Lord directs. The thought of leaving already makes us sad but we know it must happen someday. We have a few places in nearby cities we are praying about and we hope to visit soon to see if we get any further guidance. If the apartment sells thankfully we will have 90 days to get to our next place and now that we have our car it will be much easier.

In March I am looking forward to attending a few Bible institute classes at the church. I will be learning from national pastors that have decades of experience in the ministry from many different areas in Brazil. I am taking the classes primarily to learn the Brazilian's ways and ideas in evangelizing, organizing a church, and dealing with ministry challenges and problems but another value is that I am getting to increase my understanding of the vocabulary which I would not learn through any secular language school. Since I have had a few institute classes before writing this letter, I can sincerely thank the Lord for this great opportunity to get some of this knowledge from experienced local pastors in a classroom rather than knowledge only from trial and error learning experiences as a new missionary.

Again, we thank you all for working with us here in Brazil by your prayers, encouragement, support, and love. There is a lot of serious hardship in the city due to the effects of the recent increase of covid deaths and hospitals overflowing to a near breakdown of the healthcare system. Please pray for Brazil, and us to be able to reach many here in São Paulo with the good news of the ultimate cure in Jesus while hearts may be soft. We live in very strange times and our Lord is returning soon, our hope and prayer is that you all are comforted and encouraged along with us in that to press on during this time of unrest and difficulty.