



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.

April - June

I Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

We live in a time where so many people are constantly afraid of a possible outcome to their day especially after watching a news cast or reading an article on the internet. Once that fear becomes overwhelming they look to a power greater than themselves, like an afraid child seeking their parent. The city of São Paulo is one of the hardest hit in the world with the COVID and many are disheartened as they see the things they trusted in utterly failing them. So much has changed even in the short time we've been in Brazil and our hope is to use this time as an opportunity to introduce them to the One who will never fail them nor forsake them.

After the lockdown had started, we were getting close to the end of our supply of tracts and we gave out all of the tracts we were getting from the church here and so we had the idea to have some custom ones printed. I was able to get the text in Portuguese for a gospel tract that we often used in the U.S. and rework and add some basic illustrations to it so that it related to the current crisis that everyone here is interested in. So far they are received really well but due to the lockdown in the city we are limited in passing them out. Some restrictions are set to be lifting soon and we look forward to having better opportunities in distributing them.

Our language classes are going really well in two ways, in May we finished our first course and we are now almost halfway through the next course. With this school's program, we have 7 more courses until we are considered fluent in Portuguese and the classes are getting progressively harder. If we can keep up this pace, our goal is to complete all the remaining courses early next year. The real good news is that we have had some further opportunities to witness to our teacher, **Bruna**, and she has also watched a few online church services as well. The last class we had in May, we discussed hobbies, and Lydia mentioned that I enjoyed art and when I preach sometimes I will draw a picture along with the sermon. She was interested

to see that so Lydia sent her a video of a chalk talk called the Four Judgments. She watched it that weekend and on Sunday, I was able to discuss some things she didn't understand about the sermon and send her clear written explanation of the gospel translated into Portuguese. During our class on Monday we discussed it even further but I didn't press for a decision because I don't believe she was ready and needed more time for the word to work on her heart. We are really hoping she gets saved soon and we still have good opportunities almost every week to witness to her but we are trying our best to have discernment in following how the Lord is dealing with her. Thank you so much for your prayers about this and please continue praying that we have wisdom in this opportunity and she will remain open to the gospel.

We are still adapting to "normal" daily life here, and the "culture shock" of adjusting to a new country I'm sure will be prolonged for us considering how chaotic this year has been for everyone. Our interaction with Brazilians has been nearly cut off with church services and language school being online only and with authorities enforcing social distancing making it difficult to talk to people in public. Those are some of the things we really miss the most not only because the limitation in witnessing or developing conversational skills in Portuguese but because of the challenge it makes in befriending the people. I believe it's important if we are to reach them to learn not only about the Brazilian nation, language, and culture but about the individual and their lives. With adjusting to the culture we need all the help we can get, and I'm sure we provide a great deal of unexpected humor amongst the locals. Most of our mispronunciations and mistakes we are oblivious to but one incident happened months ago, and we still we laugh about it. In an Uber headed to church one day, our baby, Elaina, was crying and upset and Lydia was trying to calm her by saying, "Mama knows, mama knows." We noticed each time it was said, the driver tightened his grip on the wheel and speed up a little. (continue page 2)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Bruna's salvation and more openings to witness
- Our ability to communicate in Portuguese will increase
- Our important personal prayer request for resolution

THANKSGIVINGS:

- Good opportunities to witness to Bruna
- Our family has been able to stay healthy and safe
- Completing our first course of language school classes

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We originally thought that his fast-paced driving was just from him wanting a crying baby out of his car. But when service began at church and the pastor said, "Vamos orar," (let's pray) and then we knew the driver mistook "Mama knows" for some gringo Americans in a hurry trying to say, "Vamos, Vamos" (which can be taken as "Let's go, let's go!"). This is a challenge for us that will take a long time to achieve so we thank you all for praying for us and hope you will continue as we work to develop our communication skills in Portuguese and our understanding of the Brazilian culture.

Concerning our immigration processing, it is still on hold since all immigration offices are closed until the virus threat reaches a minimal level. The reports we are getting from the U.S. Consulate on the immigration offices is that they will not reopen until July 15th but that date will likely be pushed back again. As for our other personal prayer request, we appreciate the concern and understanding of the brethren in this matter with our pastor back in Pensacola and ask for your continued prayer for it to be resolved in a way that glorifies the Lord. In addition to everything else going on, it is a really challenging time for us and difficult to have to write about it for sure, but thankfully we have been encouraged by a few friends and pastors with good understanding who have graciously reached out to us to help us move forward in the right way. We can't tell you how much that means to us and we praise the Lord for the working of the body of Christ to help a member in a weary time!

Since our last letter we were invited to participate via video chat with a few of our supporting church's online services. It was a blessing to see and speak to some of the folks we haven't seen for a while and I also enjoyed the chance to preach as well. I'm certain the last few months have been difficult for churches all over the world but it did help me to better see the role God has the American churches in helping so many ministries around the world. It reestablishes how important it is for us all to be in prayer for each other and it makes me so thankful that we can come from American as missionaries with all the help from God's people working together.



Brazil is in a completely different situation and is continuing deeper into a recession. Regardless of whatever is behind the international upheaval with the virus crisis, it has had real and severe effects on millions here, with 1 in 10 business closing for good in São Paulo, many out of work and/or homes and the hospitals overflowing so that stadiums are being converted to temporary medical facilities. With so many without basic necessities, by your generosity, we have been able to donate hygiene supplies, nonperishable foods, and funds to help out with relief packs for the national church we are attending, First Biblical Baptist Church, to distribute. We did this mainly since they know who is in need and since we very clearly still look and speak like Americans and they can get the supplies in the areas that right now would be very dangerous for us to go into. We have seen demonstrations in the streets from our apartment and a few times on our walk to the grocery store we hear people yelling in Portuguese from their balconies, "Throw out Bolsonaro" (Brazil's President) followed by the clanging of pots and pans. Thankfully we currently live in an area that is safe for the most part and any violent activity has happened far from us.

Thank you very much to everyone for your faithful support and all those who have upheld us with prayer. Also, we especially thank those of you that have been abundantly generous and sent an additional offering to give us some extra help through these trying times. We sincerely appreciate what you all do so that we can work for the Lord here in Brazil! May the Lord greatly bless you all!