



MICHAEL & LYDIA HUGGINS

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.

December/January

I Sam.30:24 For who will harken unto you in this matter? But as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff; they shall part alike.

Praise the Lord we are finally in Brazil!!! We arrived at the airport several hours early with a caravan of bags to check through and when the counter agent saw our luggage she asked where we were going. When I told her Brazil she informed us that there was some restrictions on check through bags to Brazil added recently which reduces the total check through bags per person from 10 to 7 bags. I'd confirmed almost 2 weeks before our flight that the limit was 10 bags but for some reason I thought it best anyway to reorganize and reduce all our luggage to 19 bags instead of the 25 we originally planned. Thankfully the Lord guides even in these temporal matters, and when we don't know why he impresses us to act, we see it is so we can watch in time him work things together for good.



The flight over went really well and Elaina was only mildly fussy for a few hours of the main flight. We arrived in São Paulo and went to collect our heap of bags with apprehension after hearing so much of how Brazil's customs can be a nightmare. Again we were surprised and thankful to see God answer prayers as he had dealing with all the right agents at the airport getting us through customs without any hassle or excessive expenses. I can't help but be amazed at all the Lord has done from the time he first touched my heart about Brazil on my trip in 2002 to now living in Brazil and beginning the ministry he has called me to. First of all I know it's by the goodness and grace of God, and also by the faithful prayers and support of so many who have tarried by the stuff to enable us in this ministry.

As expected the last few weeks before our move were very busy especially since Elaina had croup for almost 2 weeks and required a lot of our attention. We delayed our move to January 20th for several reasons but mainly to try to resolve an important personal matter. During our time still stateside I was able to preach another funeral for a family friend to an audience of mostly saved people and later we also had the blessing of publicly dedicating Elaina to the Lord in our home church in Pensacola. Also our Portuguese lessons with Maria ended in December, we learned a lot of basics from her but not enough to fluently converse. Maria was a huge blessing to us and we were able to send her some of my dad's gospel chalk talk sermons that so far she has really enjoyed and we pray all the seed sown will bear fruit.

Since our last report we have had a change in course in where we will start and as time has gone by we see the Lord's hand in this direction. All along our deputation travels several recommendations were given to attend a full-time language school and Lord willing we will be starting at a school in Sao Paulo in March. The school includes cultural training in addition to teaching Portuguese and the classes we plan to enroll in are intensive study courses which meets every weekday for about 3 hours or more. No sooner did we arrive at this decision than one of our supporting churches in Texas contacted us wanting to be an extra help and paid for our first course at the school. Praise the Lord for his goodness and the generosity of the saints! It is such a blessing to have the help of the brethren, and we're also thankful for Bro. Sherrouse and his church for helping us throughout this whole process and also for another missionary we know in São Paulo that has been (Continued on page 2)



Outside of church on our
1st Sunday
in Brazil



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Opportunities to witness even with our limited Portuguese
- Wisdom and safety during our setup and living in Brazil
- That we would be a blessing to the church in Sao Paulo
- Unspoken personal prayer request

THANKSGIVINGS:

- Getting all our family and belongings safely to Brazil
- Good church to attend while studying Portuguese
- The extra funds from churches & individuals for setup in Brazil
- The Lord's grace in helping us adapt and progress in our setup

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a tremendous blessing in helping us settle. The Brazilian bureaucracy is infamous for its ability to infuriate the calmest person but praise the Lord for his mercy that helped us obtain our CPF cards (like a US social security card) without much hassle. This is just the beginning of our journey to being residents in Brazil so we'd appreciate the continued prayers for our paperwork. Right now we have an apartment on the edge of a residential area to stay in temporarily until we can find a more permanent place before we start language school. It is a really big adjustment for my family who has resided in a town with less than 100,000 for most of our lives, to now live in a huge metropolis of over 20 million people.



Even with all the change we are so happy to have a Bible believing Brazilian church to attend that is only about 25 minutes away from the language school. The first Sunday we were there was really encouraging because we were able to enjoy the song service since they sung all the old familiar hymns along with an orchestra to accompany the singing. The church people were so considerate, they had someone interpret the service for us and we have already made some friends there who speak a little English. After the church my wife and I were swarmed by the church bus kids who wanted to practice their English with the Americans. At that moment I was reminded how much of a blessing it is to be an American but more so I see the opportunity it opens to us to reach the inquisitive younger generation here in Brazil.

Already we have had some good interactions giving out gospel tracts to the locals and a few have opened up into some limited witnessing opportunities. One was the conversation I had with a young man, Filipe, an Uber taxi driver who understood some English. His life dream is to visit America someday and he wondered why we would ever leave the US, from that I was able witness to him and explain why we left America and what we were doing in his country. In the end, he was interested in coming to church but mentioned that he lived too far away to visit and so I had to leave him with a gospel tract, an invitation tract to church and prayer that God would continue to deal with him. Another account happened outside a store, where a young woman in distress carrying a dirty, tattered clothed little boy, about our daughter's age, approached my wife to ask for food for her baby. Later on my wife mentioned that the sadness of the situation struck her because of the contrast of their lives, the lady had no help in this life and no hope in the future without Christ but the opposite was true of my wife. Without being able to communicate in her language we did all we could and she was left with some temporal help, a gospel tract and prayer. These events again reinforce what we know already that our priority is to focus on learning Portuguese so we can be a better light to the Brazilian people.

Finally, seeing the Lord work in our lives never gets old! We had a specific answer to prayer that happen the first week we were in Brazil, my wife and I were discussing our need in finding a Pediatrician that speaks English so we could take Elaina to if she got sick again. We then set out for the day to pick up some household supplies in a few stores, and not much time later my wife needed to change the baby and the place had a family room for that purpose. When she returned from the room she was speaking to a Brazilian lady who spoke good English and who just happened to be a Pediatrician that offered to be Elaina's doctor. We are so glad to see the Lord care for our needs in this way and we're so thankful to know we serve a Great God!

Again we would like to testify that God is good and merciful in the answer to the prayers of his saints! Thank you very much to everyone for your faithful support and all those who have lifted us up through these challenging times. We do still sincerely covet your prayers and may the Lord bless you all as well!

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