DECEMBER 2010 Lockhart Life in Brazil



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Counting our Blessings

As Thanksgiving has passed, and the New Year is rapidly approaching we want to take the time to count the many blessings of the Lord upon us throughout this past year. At the end of last year we were finishing up our visa paperwork with the Brazilian consulate and eagerly awaiting our departure to Brazil. We have now been here in Brazil almost nine months. Time has certainly flown! God has been gracious to bring us through many trials and struggles with Esther's health, with culture shock, and with just the drastic change of life in general. Although looking back we have no desire to go through these struggles again, we are definitely thankful for each circumstance the Lord has allowed and for the lessons He has taught us through them.

We are also very grateful for each of you who have had a part in supporting us, both financially and with your prayers. There were many days when the Lord used an email from one of you to lift us up and encourage us to keep going. We are thankful for the many witnessing opportunities as well as the two professions of faith that the Lord has given to us in spite of our poor Portuguese. Although we still have a long ways to go before we can be effective with our Portuguese, we are grateful for the good progress thus far! God is always good, although at times, because of our own selfishness, we don't want to acknowledge a tough circumstance as coming from His own gracious hand! Please know that we are thankful to each of you for the struggles, sacrifices, and trials you have gone through to continue your support during tough economic times.

Prayer Requests

We asked in the last prayer letter that you pray for Renato and his family. We were able to make contact with them again, and Renato wants Jeremy to meet with him this week. Pray for growth in his life as well as for the salvation of his family.

Please pray for a young man named Gian. Jeremy met him on the street a couple months back and ended up getting into his house to share the Gospel with him. Gian appeared to understand the Gospel and says that he is trusting only in Jesus Christ for his salvation. He soaks up every bit of the Scriptures that are explained to him. For several weeks now Gian has continued to ask for a Bible study at his house. Antonio, the Brazilian pastor with whom we are working, has been doing this Bible study, as Jeremy's Portuguese still isn't quite ready. Please pray that Gian will continue to grow in his understanding of God and His Word, and also that his family will be saved.

As always, please continue to pray for our Portuguese to continue improving. Although the Holy Spirit and the power of His Word can overcome any obstacle, we desire that our tongues not be an obstacle, but a channel through which God's Word can go forth with power in the language of the people! It is our prayer that by this time next year we would be able to be fully engaged in the ministry of evangelization and discipleship rather than just the study of Portuguese.

Thank You and Merry Christmas!