

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 1

Lockhart Life in Brazil



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Jeremy with our language teacher

Times of Growth and Learning

In no way could this letter relay all that has happened over these past couple months, so we would like to focus on the one aspect that the Lord has been teaching us. The main bulk of our lives right now is a continued study of the Portuguese language.

While on deputation, we asked many veteran missionaries what they would do if they could start all over again. Almost all of them said the same thing: "I wish I would have studied the language for more than just one year instead of rushing out to start a church." Many proceeded to tell us that after many years on the mission field, they still struggled with certain aspects of the language. This advice is easier spoken than lived. There is a daily internal struggle to get out on the streets and "get to work." At the same time, after a little over nine months of language school, we realize how much there is to learn.

Jeremy was recently talking to Esther's doctor here in Brazil about the language. The doctor told us that unfortunately many Brazilians here in our area speak the language with many errors and with much slang. He said that when he moved to our city many years ago, he had great difficulty understanding the people here (even though he is a Brazilian himself). It is quite difficult to learn correct grammar in the classroom and then hear poor grammar and slang on the streets. It is almost like learning two languages at the same time. We have to learn to understand the slang of the common folks on the street, and at the same time reply with correct Portuguese.

We believe that the principles of Scripture as well as the experience of others would teach that the broader and stronger the foundation at the beginning, the broader the scope or possibility of ministry later down the road. Rather than limiting ourselves with a level of language that can be used only among the poor and uneducated, we want to develop our language skills to the extent that God can use us to go wherever and to preach to whomever in Brazil He would send us!

This being said, we intend to continue on with our studies until that strong foundation in the language has been laid. Please pray with us that the Lord would give definite progress in the language each day of our study.

Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for continued improvement in Esther's health.
2. Please pray for daily improvement in the language.
3. Please pray for the Schrock family's visas to be approved so that they can join us soon for language school and future ministry.
4. Please pray that God would prepare the way and give us wisdom as to the specific place of ministry after our language school is complete.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support