

Dear Family and Friends,

Another year has wound down and started with a whirlwind of activity. As we paused for the Holidays and looked back at 2014, we see that God has showered many blessings upon us. However, **One** blessing that stands out the most is that "***Jesus Loves Me***". We have seen His abundant love in all the areas of our life, including where we have failed to live up to His holy standard; whether it be with impatience and irritability, with our children or spouse, or in lack of love towards our neighbors, or even giving in to a sinful desire. It is clear that the Lord's merciful, loving, and forgiving Hand has been guiding our feeble and short lives. We are thankful to see that because of God's abundant love and mercy, we are a little further in our walk with our Lord than we were this time last year.

Blessed **be** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to HIS abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you*, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.  
(I Peter 1:3-5)

Our Time in the U.S. was a very special time for our family. We covered a lot of territory on this trip; twelve thousand miles, and 24 states, traveling from coast to coast. We really enjoyed seeing the beauty of God's creation as we drove the highways and through the countryside. Some of our highlights were the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Petrified Forest, camping in Yosemite, and the Creation Museum.

The time spent visiting and fellowshiping with you was of great encouragement to us, as we shared together what the Lord has been doing in our lives over the years, as well as our hopes and dreams for the mission and our family.

Our return to Brasil has kept us busy as we drove the kids to and from school, we were relieved that Rebekah was able to keep up with her class during our travels and passed her tests with good grades. Our Bible study group put together a Christmas play for the community, and we continue with preparations for Kezia and Eric's wedding January 17. The men from our church came out each Saturday the beginning of December to help lay the patio in front of the camp dining hall! It is exciting to see this part of the project, finished!

The Christmas play took place on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> and went very well. We were greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of our Bible study group, as they stepped out of their comfort zones to have speaking parts in the play. The theme of course, was Christ's birth, but taken from John 1:1-11. With the help of two puppets, we were able to include, creation, the fall of Adam and Eve, the result of sin, and Christ's death and resurrection!! After the play, we had a North American tradition of cookies and punch and were privileged to give out packets of Christmas books and Bibles, donated through the Brazilian Bible Association. There were about 25 families represented, and each home received a packet. Each child received a small gift as well. Brent concluded the evening reminding us all to remember the reason for Christmas, not to get presents, but to focus on God's present TO us, His Son. Many mothers remarked this was the best Christmas they had ever had.

We continue to seek the Lord's guidance on the issue of the education of our children. February 2 schools are to commence again, and we at this point, are looking at homeschooling. Please keep us in your prayers as there are many complications involved.

We pray that this Christmas season has been a very special time as we remember the GREATEST LOVE bestowed upon us, by our God and Savior Jesus Christ. And we thank our Lord for the kindness, love, hospitality, generosity and support that was shared with us while we were in the States.

With much Love,

Benjamin, Stephanie, Rebekah, Rachael and Esther



The men working on the patio

COOKIES



Celebrating Esther's birthday at the beach

Trip to the mall in Recife to see the lights and a picnic at the beach with family and Bible study group

