

Leonards in Brazil

June 2009

Dear Prayer Team,

TRAVEL BACK TO BRAZIL

Our trip back "home" on June 10th-11th went very smoothly!! Thank you for your prayers! The transfers between planes, a comfortable trip (John even slept solidly for a short time!!), kind customs agents (nice!), and safe baggage arrival (only a small spill and it was inside a zip-lock bag) all went together to make our "move" enjoyable. We were able to witness to one of the stewardesses and since she lives only about two hours away from us, we invited her to come to our house for a meal sometime.

We also found Josh doing very well here at home, so we have much to be thankful for. Two bouquets of poinsettias were even awaiting us in our front yard--a nice welcoming present. We had forgotten that they bloom in the "winter" here (winter means normal day-time temps in the 50-60's and night sometimes into the 40s).

VISITATION

John hit Brazil "running" as one of the first things he wanted to do is go on visitation. You can tell by this picture that it was an up-hill climb, but we enjoyed visiting Adao, Alzira and family. Please pray for the salvation Alzira's brother whom John spoke with right at the end. His daughter sometimes attends church with us at Gato Preto.

MEETING

The work at Gato Preto (Black Cat) is steady. We were in hopes that they would be able to get the "porch" finished in our absence, but it was not possible. Plans are to get it completed before the end of this month so that we can begin to use it for our meetings instead of having them inside the home. John did some measuring with one of the men of the church on Sunday, as you can see in the photo. Jeanne continues with the childrens' class, which is a blessing. This time a little three-year old boy with special needs named Vitor came to her class. His sister carries him everywhere since he cannot walk. We are burdened to help out this little guy, as they are saying that he could walk with the help of a prosthesis. More than his physical needs, we want to be sure that not only his but his family's spiritual needs are met. None of them are Christians, and we feel that this may be a way to reach them with the Gospel. Continue to pray as we seek to help out in this needy and spiritually darkened community.

FAMILY

Josh continues to teach English at the same school and seems to enjoy teaching. He did a good job of keeping things going not only here at home (paying bills, feeding pets, watering plants...etc.), but also at the work in Gato Preto. Jerrod is at Lincoln Lake Baptist Camp in Michigan and enjoying being used of the Lord there as a counselor. He plans to enter his junior year at Faith Baptist Bible College this fall. Jonna is taking summer school classes towards her nursing degree at Des Moines Area Community College and is also working at Hy-Vee grocery store, and is active in the college and career group at Saylorville Baptist Church. Jeanne has started her junior year of schooling and thinks that she can perhaps finish by Christmas. Then after summer vacation ends in March, she can begin her senior year. John's allergy situation has improved greatly. Since we last wrote, the doctors found out that it was most likely a medication-related allergy. We have changed them around and it seems he is doing better, although the doctor told us that it could take up to six months for him to feel completely better. Even though his rashes have not totally disappeared, they have diminished greatly. John is VERY glad to be back home, but also thoroughly enjoyed his time in the U.S. Bev is also glad to be back home and is enjoying everything except, well...driving in Brazil (crazy Brazilian drivers NOT including her, of course!!), waiting in line everywhere, and other "little things." Today she had to chase down our dog who decided to do a visit to our neighbor's house where there are three LARGE black dogs and a couple of small ones. He went over there and made "havoc" of things for awhile until Bev ran over there yelling and giving him a few "encouraging" swats to help him get back where he was supposed to be. He spent some time "in the dog pen," (similar to being "in the dog house") for awhile, but tonight is out doing his nightly duty watching over the property. Thank you for remembering each member of our family in prayer.

PLANS

This week, John plans to get in touch with proper authorities regarding a piece of property for a church in Gato Preto. Remember that we told you the place where we are ministering is "invaded property" and therefore not legally owned by any of the people. Any of the land out there rightly belongs to the government, and we are planning to ask if they could make a donation of property for a church building. We appreciate your prayers regarding this important matter.

Thank you prayer team!!

Pressing on for Christ,
John and Bev Leonard
Missionaries to Brazil