

News from Terry & Simone in Brazil



So what's New?

Well, to a large extent we feel a bit like life has been put on hold at present. Firstly, due to Terry being unwell (see below) and secondly as we wait to find out about our possible move further south in Brazil. Needless to say the waiting has been somewhat frustrating, even if not unforeseen, as we knew from our first contact with the seminary that it would take several months for them to come back with an answer. This is because various committees need to meet and make a decision and everyone wanted time to pray through the possibility. We have wondered if we should also consider or seek some other possibility. However, as we have continued to feel that we should wait on God to hear about this one possibility we have resisted the temptation and if nothing else we are learning patience. We have also reassured ourselves that it is worth the wait, for if God was to open the door for us we would be much closer to Simone's family, further away from the heat and the sun, in a larger city and most importantly of all working for a college whose main focus is in training people to work with the poor (which is where our hearts are). So we wait on and in the mean time we continue with our usual ministries in the college in Anápolis.

There are however, two new areas of ministry that have appeared on the horizon to stop us from getting bored. A month or so ago Terry was elected the new Team Leader for Latin Link in Brazil. Though this might say more about the faith of Latin Link missionaries in Brazil than it does about Terry's abilities, he is nervously excited about the possibility and hopes that he can do at least as good a job as his predecessor. The official hand over takes place later in the year but he is already trying to get to grips with things. Along side this both of us have started to regularly teach a group of around twenty people in our church in what is called the adult Sunday school. At present we are going through all the basics of our faith. We are both really enjoying this new challenge and so far it seems that they are as well! Obviously we would value your prayers for both of these new activities.

Sarah

Not surprisingly Sarah continues to grow and bring us much joy. I am not sure which parent she gets it from but she has turned into a real bi-lingual chatterbox and has now developed the ability to switch from one language to the other when she needs to. Somehow it is very frustrating for us, having struggled to learn a second language, to see just how easily she manages with both. Obviously we are delighted about this and praise God for it. Sarah is currently into Lego, dancing and sticking her finger up her nose. The first two of which we are trying to encourage and the latter of which we are not.



Health and Wealth

It is fair to say that both of these have taken something of a battering since we returned to Brazil last July. On the financial side, for reasons of world economics

Gracefully over the past few years God has been continually increasing the number of long term missionaries that Latin Link has working in Brazil. Over the next six months or so we should hopefully receive two new couples to work in Brazil. Whilst we are absolutely delighted about this, not least as they are both long term friends of ours, it does point to the fact that there is still much work to be done here (and in the rest of Latin America). If you think that God might be calling you to this work check out our mission's web site. There are plenty of opportunities to serve God, ranging from a few months, to a few years or even for life!

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that we don't understand, the exchange rate has continued to drop. The end result of this being that when coupled with Brazilian inflation things have become much more expensive for us by at least 30%. Obviously we would value your prayers about this. However, we would also ask that you give thanks to God with us for His continued provision.

More seriously, at least in the short term, Terry has been suffering from repeated problems with kidney stones since he returned to Brazil. This has meant numerous emergency trips to hospital, visits to doctors and finally surgery, at just 24hrs notice, on the 1st April (no joke!). Praise God everything seems to have gone well and with luck Terry should be fully recovered in time for a second minor operation which he also needs to have done around the 15th of April. God willing after this he should be back to normal which will be a huge relief after months of being repeatedly ill.

The experience of having an operation where we live in Brazil was so different to the UK that we thought that it might be worth a few words here. So what are the differences? Well, firstly where we live they don't sedate you before you go down to the operating theatre. So having taken off your clothes and put on one of those silly gowns you walk yourself into the waiting and recovery room in the operating area. Once there you sit on your bed and then have one nurse bringing another nurse along to have a look at the colour of your eyes. Yes, they really are blue, and yes both nurses left when they discovered that the patient speaks Portuguese. Next, there is the forty-five minute wait whilst they find a vacant theatre table. The best way to describe this process is like being in McDonald's on a Saturday lunch time. There are numerous doctors all of whom want to operate on their patients so that they can go home. This is the joy of private health service where you are not paid by the hour but by the patient. The next result being that it is a noisy place with lots of people battering for the right to use the next available table. Still there was no need to worry about all this noise as entertainment was laid on whilst you wait. The operating theatre doors are left open which meant you can watch someone else having an operation just 14 feet away. I watched the end of a knee operation and the start of another which I was unable to identify. Thankfully, this sort of thing does not bother me! Finally, it was my turn but unfortunately, despite the doctor's promise, they could not record the operation for me as the instructions for the new equipment they were going to use for the operation were all in English and they couldn't understand it. I can hardly wait for the next minor Op!

To end on a positive note, even in the mists of Brazilian health care we have seen God's provision. The doctor who performed Terry's operation was a Christian. Furthermore, in Brazil you have to find someone to stay with you and look after you whilst you are in hospital. Despite the fact that this was more awkward for us as the operation was in a different city, God not only provided a Christian friend willing to do this but he was also a qualified doctor!

Prayer Points

1. For Terry's health. That he might not have any new problems relating to his kidneys.
2. For us as we seek God's will about our possible move south in Brazil, and especially for Sarah's adjustment there if this move becomes a reality
3. For Terry as he takes up his new responsibility as Team Leader of Latin Link in Brazil and for us as we now teach in the church as well.

Praise Points

1. That Sarah really is becoming a bi-lingual chatterbox.
2. For God's continued provision for us despite the problems caused by the lower exchange rates.
3. For the church we have been attending in which we feel both useful and at home.

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