



The HUGGINS FAMILY

Missionaries to **BRAZIL**



I Corinthians 3:7

So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

February/March

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We know that many of you are suffering some type of loss in this time but we are very thankful for all those who are pressing on in spite of the hardships so that we can redeem the time here in Brazil. As we see the pestilence around this world intensify with a small foretaste of the tribulation that is to come, we know that the lost living in these evil days will only see worse times ahead and many are coming to their last chance to receive the gospel before the church is raptured out. So in this time of global concern of an uncertain future, our prayer is that the Lord will give us all wisdom in redeeming the time and uphold us so we finish well.

The Brazilian church, First Biblical Baptist Church, we are attending while we are enrolled in language school in São Paulo has been a great blessing and it has been very good for us to see how the Brazilians hold services and how they try to reach their community with the gospel. For example, once a month on a Friday night they prepare a big supper at a church member's house and invite friends, family, and neighbors focussing on getting the lost to attend. The event is used so that unchurched or religious people get an easy introduction to the church and then hear a short gospel message during the evening as well. Afterwards they are invited to church on Sunday and we've seen several of them come out and walk down the aisle at the invitation and accept Christ as their Savior. On our more personal opportunities in passing out tracts and witnessing, I had a really good opening with **Fabio** an Uber driver who took us to church one Sunday evening. He worked in England for years and spoke very good English. Near the end of our conversation he finally understood that salvation is through Jesus Christ and him alone apart from any religion. I then went through what he needed to do to be saved and as I finished we arrived at our drop-off place. He said that no one had ever explained it to him that way before. He had to leave for his next route but I truly believe he was at the point of decision and if he didn't get saved right then I know the Lord will continue to work on his heart. He gave me a way to contact him and once the quarantine is lifted I plan to meet with him again.



As some of you may remember, one area we were hoping to minister in is with the orphans and street kids here in Brazil. A lady in the church that spoke English befriended my wife and we found out that her family runs a small orphanage. They bring the kids to every service they can and the orphan girls really love Elaina and come to our pew after every service. We were invited to visit the kids and learn more about the operation of the home when the COVID issue started shutting things down and we had to postpone our visit.

Since Brazil is predominantly Catholic which tends to create a matriarchal society, it was refreshing to see the church here put the responsibility on the men of the church to lead. I joined in a week long early morning prayer meeting with the men of the church to ask the Lord's help and blessing on the ministry and their country. Afterwards a charge was given to the men concerning their roles in their family, church, and community and even though I could not understand everything that was going on, I knew it was a time of spiritual strengthening for the church. There is also a Christian men's society that meets every Sunday for an hour that aims to help the men develop spiritually and make them aware of ministry opportunities in their area and around Brazil. We were invited to present our ministry at a meeting and I was given the chance to preach afterwards through an interpreter. This was my first time preaching since arriving in Brazil and I was thankful to have the opportunity.

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Fabio & Bruna's salvation and more openings to witness
- We learn from and be a blessing to the church in São Paulo
- Our important personal prayer request for resolution

THANKSGIVINGS:

- Good church to attend while studying Portuguese
- Health and safety of our family
- Getting to start language school

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In addition to Bro. Graham Foran who is the missionary here in São Paulo that has been a help with our setup, my mom traveled over with us and stayed for a few weeks. She was a great help in many ways while we settled and started to learn about living in a big city in Brazil. Right after she returned to the States, we had a scare with Elaina, she had been running a high fever for several days and infant Tylenol kept it somewhat under control. When her fever broke she began to break out with blotchy red spots on her body, it was then we found out she had roseola, a common viral illness in babies here in Brazil. We were very thankful the Lord answered prayer and it was not something worse requiring a hospital visit.

I've also had another chance to minister here, not behind a pulpit but with a trowel in hand, trying to help out with some construction projects at the church's camp that is about an hour away in the mountains surrounding the city of São Paulo. Everything in these remote places is done manually from hauling and hand



mixing cement with a shovel and hoe to cutting down and clearing trees with an ax. One blessing was that summer was ending here in the southern hemisphere and so we had a little relief from the heat and humidity. This time working side by side with these men gave me a lot of language practice since everybody there only spoke Portuguese.

Earlier in February I was invited to go with Pastor Josué and Pastor Ebenézer to visit one of the widows from their church that now lived in a retirement home a few towns away from São Paulo. She had a burden for the children in the area and brought around 100 kids to VBS one year on her own. It was a blessing to spend some time in with an old saint who spent her years redeeming the time in the place God had her. Afterward, the pastor took me to a nearby city of Jundiaí that he had been praying about getting a work started there for years. We also started praying about that but in the meantime I am very happy that we are getting a chance to learn from these men before we are out on our own. In March I attended the Gideon's meeting for the southern association in São Paulo and was glad to learn they also understood the problem with the modern versions and took a strong stance against them as one of the speakers took some time to point out passages in the new bibles that have been corrupted. The following week I was going to join them to visit hospitals, schools, and prisons to pass out New Testaments but the quarantines were already beginning in those places and we were not able to go.

A big part of our week is our language studies, we started having class three times a week but now it's all online. Our teacher, Bruna, teaches mostly in Portuguese to exercise our hearing and comprehension and my wife and I have seen these formal classes already help us a lot. Since our teacher knows we are here as missionaries, at the start of our lesson we go over a Portuguese scripture calendar I received at the men's society and that has begun to open up some questions from our teacher about what the verses mean. She is Catholic and is not very familiar with the Bible. The other day the verse was on Zech. 13:1 and we were able to talk about the life giving fountain that was opened in Christ at Calvary. We are praying these discussions will turn into a better chance to witness to her in time so please pray for **Bruna**.

Last letter I mentioned an important personal matter and asked prayer for an unspoken prayer request. Before our move to Brazil it came to our attention that there were some issues that placed us at odds with our pastor, Bro. Donovan. As soon as we found this out we tried to work at a resolution but we have been unsuccessful. As a result we are no longer sponsored in Brazil by Bro. Sherrouse and his church. We have some other options for sponsorship we are pursuing but that has been suspended due to the Covid issue. Our prayer is the Lord will give us all forbearance so we can redeem what time we have left. This has been a very serious and difficult time and we ask for your continued prayers for this matter. (Eph. 4:1-3)

Apart from that we love being able to labor in the place were the Lord has called us and we enjoy being a part of His work in Brazil. We know many of you are facing some difficult times yourself so again we really appreciate your sacrifices, helpful prayers and faithful support so that we can minister here!

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