



# Kawamura Family Newsletter-February-June 2011

*"My prayer is that you not take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is the truth." (Jn 17:15-17)*

SATS/Harvest/FH

07/22/11

## Steve Completes 1st Semester at SATS, Nilza Meets Needs Creatively, Isaac Overcomes Physical Challenges

After returning from Winter vacation, Steve taught over 150 students in four classes, two preaching classes and an introductory theology class on campus and one large (103 students) class in the distance learning program at SATS (South American Theological Seminary). In his on-campus classes, he was privileged to serve alongside his colleague, introducing new students to the study of God and coaching second year students in the proclamation of the whole Good News of God. He also mentored fourth year students in their final year monographs, helping them develop their biblical themes to be more theologically wholistic and contextualized (adapted to their particular church, ministry or cultural contexts) and served as chaplain to the male students in the on campus and distance learning programs.

Nilza continued meeting needs of students and staff at SATS, served as a volunteer with Steve in

training church leaders, reached and met our and neighbors' needs. She provided transportation to students to shop (to a family of 5 children whose ages are 14, 12, 9, 7 and 2 years old providing them some bread and meat weekly), cooked and shared meals to one staff and a student seeking employment. She sometimes transported a staff member to shop, doctor's appointments or to her home. She drove Isaac and me to school, appointments, training sessions of leaders in Biblical worldview and Bible studies at IE Hosana and Holiness churches. In addition, she provided us with delicious healthy meals and hospitality to neighborhood children. She looked for ways to creatively meet our neighbors' needs. We took a load of recyclable boxes she discovered to a neighbor, who had a pair of couches to donate; which we were able to give to one of the local pastors we know, which provided



Steve & Pr. Sharon teaching at SATS -April 2011

his home with much needed living room furniture.

Isaac overcame respiratory and anxiety problems during the semester. With God's help, doctors' and a little encouragement from a psychologist, he overcame these obstacles and finished his semester well. He grew in biblical wisdom, physical stature, developed new friendships and academically excelled.

The highlight of our semester was Pr. Sharon's visit in March/April. Our greatest challenge was the home invasion we suffered from robbers in June. But our faithful God kept us safe and secure.

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### Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests:

- Thank you God for protecting and sustaining us;
- Thank you God for the experience at Iguacu Falls;
- Thank you God for the privilege to serve at SATS, the local churches and what You are doing in them;
- Please ask God to continue to provide financially to meet our budgetary needs, to end the year with a positive balance in our FH (Food for the Hungry) account;
- Please ask God for grace, wisdom to serve, love, meet felt needs of people at SATS, the churches and community, enabling them to develop according to Your plan;
- Please ask God for sufficiency & wisdom allowing us to move to a more secure apartment, we've been investing in during the past 3 years. It is 1/3 smaller than our home and gets only the morning sunlight (about 2 hours), and expensive, so we are not sure about moving there. The good thing would be that it is much closer, about 1800 meters, to Steve's work and Isaac's school.

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## Pr. Sharon Koh & Mimi Visit and Bless Many

Pr. Sharon Koh, Pastor of Missions and Community Life at our home church, EBCLA, came to visit us for 10 days in March/April. Pr. Sharon and Mimi, her photographer stayed and experienced our lives. She blessed many with her teaching at SATS, encouraging biblical messages in four of the churches we serve in Londrina and Sao Paulo and a fifth in Assai. She also shared about missions in the 21st century at the local pas-

tor's meeting of greater Londrina.

She blessed us, taking us as a family to visit Iguacu Falls, on the border of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. We saw the breathtaking Argentine side of the falls for the first time and enjoyed our conversations and fellowship with one another. We were greatly encouraged and blessed by her and Mimi's presence in our home and our lives.



Steve, Nilza & Isaac with Pr. Sharon & Mimi-Iguacu Falls-Argentina-April 2011



Shoiti, Megumi, Pr. Kaoru, with Pr. Sharon and Noboru-Casaverde, São Paulo-March 2011

## Hosana Casaverde Perseveringly Meets Church and Community Needs

Leaders and members at IE Hosana Casaverde and her sister congregation in Recanto Verde (Caucaia do Alto) wholistically met the physical, social, spiritual and wisdom needs of community and church members with perseverance. Casaverde leaders continued to help church and community members develop socially, hosting monthly birthday celebrations in their church, and a Mother's Day luncheon for community and church mothers. Both churches continued promoting biblical wisdom through weekly Bible studies in homes, bimonthly "Sunday School" on Saturdays in Recanto Verde and studies on growing/

developing in their relationship with God and sacrificial service in special Bible studies at Casaverde. At both churches, members continued selling soap made from collected donated used cooking oil, providing resources for the continued physical rehabilitation of Diego's leg, helping him learn to walk and refurbished a basement garage as a worship/learning center for the Recanto Verde community. Weekly worship services started there in May.

As the only church wholistically meeting needs, these leaders acted with love, determination and perseverance to meet these needs in a context filled with poverty, drug and gang culture.

All the members at Casaverde were challenged by Pr. Kaoru, their leader, to each do a "Seed Project" or a "Discipline of Love" project by June. Many succeeded in doing them. Carlos and Susana saw a physical need of tropical style clothing in a Bolivian immigrant family's son—a friend of their son. They donated his usable Brazilian-style clothing to replace his friend's wardrobe rich in wool clothing. Akira completed the architectural plans and blueprints for Katya, a leader at Recanto Verde, enabling her to legally register her home with city authorities and gain title to her property. Pr. Kaoru continued physically transporting a woman, wife of a retired Holiness leader, to dialysis treatments. four times a week.

## Hosana Londrina Wholistically Reaches out to Elderly Japanese in their Neighborhood

*Hosana Londrina leaders and members met physical, social, spiritual and wisdom needs in their community and reached out to elderly Japanese in their neighborhood with projects meeting spiritual and social needs.*

Hosana Londrina leaders and members met physical, social, spiritual and wisdom needs in their community and reached out to elderly Japanese in their neighborhood with projects meeting spiritual, physical and social needs. These leaders continued their mentoring program of Sunday School children, weekly meeting, praying, then accompanying them during the week with a phone call or home visit. Neighborhood children received weekly tutoring,

young adults continued meeting monthly for a community meal, worship/message and games. They devoted time to their Sunday school children and their families, hosting a quarterly breakfast, afternoon tea or evening program at the restaurant owned and operated by church members, meeting spiritual, physical, social and wisdom needs in these gatherings. They also began a more concerted effort to reach, invite and involve elderly Japanese from their

neighborhood with home visitations and a quarterly afternoon tea, where there was a brief message in Japanese followed by Japanese tea and snacks. The meeting at the church grew to seven elderly people. They hope to expand to meet spiritual needs with a home Bible study and prayer meeting, in Japanese, with the goal of bringing these people into a personal relationship with God, through faith in Jesus Christ.

## Grateful to an Awesome God

We are so grateful to God over these past five months for the awesome things He enabled us to experience. From the inspiring moments seeing His creation on the Argentine Iguazu Falls, to awe invoking wonder at his protection of us during the home invasion we suffered, we praise God for His sovereign rule and control over our lives.

We are grateful to God for each one of you, who love, pray and sacrificially partner with us financially in our Kingdom service pre-

paring men and women in Brazil and the Portuguese speaking evangelical church and world for service in God's Kingdom. Thank you for accompanying us in our journey, despite economic challenges and uncertainty. We hope and pray God provides, in awesome, marvelous ways, sufficiently for your every physical, spiritual, social and wisdom need, that would enable you to continue supporting us spiritually and financially in our Kingdom venture.

We are grateful for the privilege

to serve at SATS and the local Japanese Brazilian churches. God is doing awesome things, in these relatively small churches, through their leaders and members. We invite you to continue praying for them, as well as our training/mentoring of their leaders, that all may develop in belief in Christ, obedience to His commands and bear much fruit for God's Kingdom. We continue to cherish your love, prayers and collaboration.

With His love,

*Steve, Nilza and Isaac*



At Iguazu Falls-Argentina-April 2011-Thank you for your love, prayers and partnership alongside us! God bless you all!!