

11/24/11

Dear family, friends, supporters and intercessors,

Greetings from Londrina, Brazil, where we serve as volunteers at SATS (South American Theological Seminary) and at two Japanese Brazilian evangelical churches. This Thanksgiving has been very special. We just finished preparing and serving our Thanksgiving dinner of stuffed turkey, baked ham, mashed potatoes, corn and peas and apple and pumpkin pies for dessert to the Kimura family, who've been friends for over 25 years and our neighbors. We are very thankful to God for what He has done in our lives as a family, in the churches we serve and in the community we live.

We are thankful for how God has physically cared for us. He is slowly restoring Isaac's sight, after partially losing his sight after a fall and resultant trauma that bruised his optic nerve. We are thankful that God helped us maintain financial self-control, enabling us to save financial resources to buy a new car that has relieved much of the physical stress on Nilza's prosthesis, in her left leg and arms. We thank God for keeping Steve healthy and able to serve the students, staff, and workers at SATS, and leaders at the churches we serve in Londrina and São Paulo. We are thankful for God's provision of a new apartment that is more secure and closer to SATS.

We are thankful for what God is doing in the churches we serve. At the Holiness Londrina church, we have been teaching God's word in an inductive Bible study and intermittently at the evening service. The church leadership sent 90% of the resources from their annual "sukiyaki" event to the earthquake and tsunami victims in northern Japan in October. The Hosana Londrina church continues learning biblical worldview and reaching out to their neighborhood, mentoring Sunday school children, influencing their families and meeting spiritual and physical needs of the elderly Japanese in their area. At Hosana Casaverde leaders and members recently served medical, dental, legal and spiritual needs of 140 people in a project sponsored by several local churches, herself and a special medical team of Dr. Maria Cecilia, comprised of doctors, dentists and psychologists. She continued meeting physical, spiritual and social needs of Bolivian and other Spanish-speaking Latin peoples, while discipling and integrating Japanese Brazilian and Afro-Brazilian peoples from their neighborhood. Pr. Kaoru, the leader of this church has stated how people are his focus, not church buildings, projects or numbers. God has honored this vision, as members obediently pray, serve, demonstrate God's love and act to meet their people's needs.

We are thankful for the relationships God has allowed us to develop with our neighbors this year. We remember how our neighbor Julio and his family sheltered us and called the police, as our house was being entered and robbed the second time in October, and of the sweet times when Isaac and I made banana pancakes, eggs and bacon for Saturday brunch and were able to give Julio and his family a portion. We thank God for allowing us to meet these physical needs and to visit, share God's word and pray for some of our neighbors suffering from a serious disease, depression, or loss of a family member. We thank God for their cooperation in a small project, where we collected a large number of shoe boxes and cardboard recyclables, brought them to our neighbor Katrina, then discovered she had just received two couches in very good condition to donate, which we were able to give to a local pastor we know, who didn't have much living room furniture.

Awe thank God for you, those who lovingly care for us, intercede for us or sacrificially financially collaborate in our Kingdom service here in Brazil. Thank you so much for your sacrifice, prayer and partnership in our work. May God bless you and your loved ones richly during this holiday season and meet all your needs from the infinite riches in Christ. We love you all very much.

With His love,

*Steve, Nilza and Isaac Kawamura*



Helena, our cousin, here to help us move, Nilza, Isaac & Steve-Londrina-11/24/11-Happy holidays!