



For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ
2 Corinthians 4:6

2025- another year of "New"

Dear family and friends,

We trust you all have had a blessed Christmas and wish each of you a Happy New Year! Thank you for partnering with us for another year on this journey God has us on here in Brazil. This year has brought our family plenty of "new" — a new baby, multiple new homes, new friends, a new ministry albeit temporary, and many "new" plans throughout the course of 2025. But, as it draws to a close, we rest in the fact that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." - Heb. 13:8.

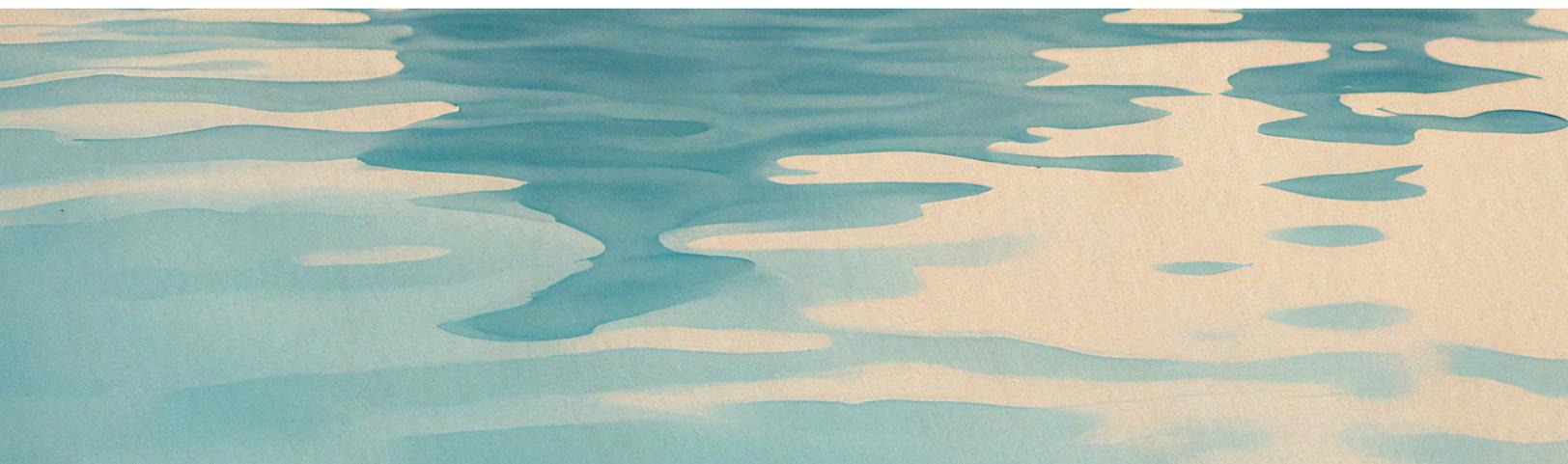


As we briefly alluded to in our last update, our ministry timeline has changed once again. Back in October, we were hopeful that we could move into the tribe and begin building around February or March of this coming year. However, the more we talked and prayed about this as a couple and discussed it with our pastor and mentors, the more we realized that this would not be the wisest decision. In short, we feel that if we were to continue at that pace, the resulting stress of moving and all the transitions would likely set our family up to be moving toward burnout. So, we have decided to continue our temporary ministry helping at the Puraquequara International School for at least one more semester, with Spencer staying in the maintenance department. We plan to revisit our timeline over the course of next semester to determine when our family is at a healthy point to be able to move into the tribe. While we didn't expect this change, we thank God that we are able to stay here a little longer, as we feel we are able to put down roots and have a ministry to others for as long as God has us here

"Don't you want to be made well?"

I, Spencer, was asked last month if I would share a series of short devotionals with the High School students here at the school. As I thought about what to share, I decided to share what I've been learning through my counseling sessions this year, specifically in Dr. Steve Smith's book, "The Key to Deep Change." I highlighted his points that all of us are wounded people. Our hearts accumulate damage over the course of our lives, whether from others or even from ourselves. And, unfortunately, because we all have sin living in us (Rom. 7:14-20), what we most often choose to do with the wounds of our hearts is not to allow them to draw us closer to God, but rather to comfort them with sinful choices, starting a cycle of wounds and sinful choices.

One of my main questions for the highschoolers was Jesus' question to the paralytic man by the pool of Bethesda in John 5 — "Do you want to be made well?" This question can also be seen as an invitation. To be completely honest with you all, this is one of the reasons we as a family are choosing to slow down in ministry — because we recognize that there are areas in our life where we need to be healed and grow in before we can help an indigenous church to do the same. We have all seen missionaries, pastors, and people in ministry in general put up on a pedestal because we think of them as an elite class of holy people. But, they are broken, too. We are broken, too. But, the good news is that we know the Healer. Our precious Father wants to heal us from our wounds and free us from cycles of sin. And He invites us to accept His healing and move toward wholeness.



Praises/Prayer Requests

Praises:

Our family is overall in good health, and the kids are growing all the time, especially baby Maddie!

For the stability of staying at PQQ for another semester

Prayer requests:

Wisdom in future ministry steps/timing

For our family to continue to move toward healing

The school here has a new dorm building project which is in need of a lot more funding — pray for God's provision.



Thank you so much for keeping up with us and for your prayers and support!

Please reply to this email and let us know how you are doing and how we can pray for you, as well!

All for His glory,
Spencer & Joanna
Abigail, Gabriella, Judah, and Maddie.
1 Thess. 5:16-18



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