

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

## Catching you up

Dear friends and family,

First of all, we would like to apologize for the lapse in communication over the last several months. There has been a lot going on for us as a family, and in terms of ministry, but that's no excuse. Thank you for your patience with us in this, and we will try to get back to a consistent rhythm in our communication. We want to be open and transparent with you regarding our recent ministry decisions.

In one of our last updates, we mentioned that we'd decided to slow down a bit and remain temporarily at the missionary kid school (called the "Puraquequara International Ranch" or "PQQ" for short.) In the meantime, we have been able to slow down and process recent events and next steps. During the course of this processing, we began to realize that we did not have peace moving forward toward the tribe. This was a difficult realization, but after a lot of time in prayer and seeking wisdom from our sending church pastor, mentors, and our field leadership, we would like to inform you that we are looking at changing ministries. Even writing this in an update is a big change for us because, as you all know, church planting among an indigenous people group has been our goal for the last 6 years at least. We still have a desire to play a part in this, but we are realizing that this part is most likely not as tribal church planters on the front lines. This has led us to consider a different ministry possibility, yet still with the same mission organization (Ethnos360) and still in Brazil.

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This is a difficult decision in many respects, but we are doing our best to navigate this process as honestly, prayerfully, and wisely as possible. The biggest factors in this decision are our tribal church planting teammates who also work with the X people group (who we were planning to work with) and the X people themselves. We have technically been a part of this church planting team for a year and a half despite not moving into the tribe yet. The tribe desires missionaries to return and live there (currently no one on the team is in the village for various reasons), but we hadn't given them a promise that we would come; so, that aspect isn't quite as difficult.

However, we pray that God raises up disciples among and for the X people to lead them toward maturity. But we know that we are not doing anyone any favors by moving forward in that role ourselves without peace that GOD is the one leading us there. That would only cause problems down the road. As far as our team is concerned, this decision has been met with tremendous understanding and support, and we feel very loved by the other members of our team. We have no issues with them, which is actually something that makes it difficult to leave. But nonetheless, we are at peace with this new direction.

## New Ministry Option:

So, in terms of other ministry possibilities, we have one main option we are currently pursuing. Since being here at PQQ (the international school), Spencer has had the chance to teach both an apologetics class once a week and a month-long Bible class on the book of Mark. He has loved doing that and would love to continue teaching. Joanna, on the other hand, loves serving in more practical, behind-the-scenes ways, which the school has many opportunities for as well.

Therefore, through much prayer and counsel, *we have decided and think it is best for our family to stay and serve here at the missionary kid school indefinitely.* We have had a meeting with the leadership here at the school. It was a hopeful and encouraging meeting, but they have not given us a final decision. To be honest, we can't say with 100% certainty at this point where our long-term ministry will be, but we do know that we are still called to be faithful servants to God wherever we are, and we plan to do this wherever God leads and as long as He allows. *Please pray with us for God to make clear where He wants to use us. We would love it to be here at PQQ, but we give it to Him with open hands.*

We know that this is a very big decision and change of direction, and if you have any questions, please reach out to us.



Highlight on the kids:

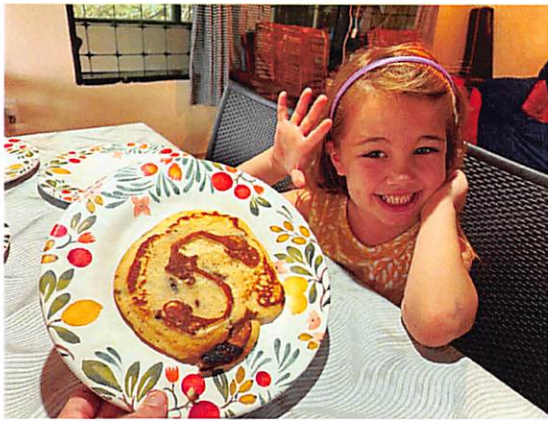
In other news, our kids have been doing well overall and continued to love living at PQQ.

Abby just celebrated her fifth birthday, and loves riding her new bike and talking with daddy about apologetics. 🥳

Ella is very responsible for a three-year-old, and loves to play with and take care of her younger siblings

Judah turned two in March, and loves soccer, boats, cars, wrestling, and other typical boy things.

All four of them are all growing so fast, especially little 6 month old Maddie, who is already scooting all over the house and sitting up all on her own.



As always, thank you so much for following along with us in this journey and for praying for us! Please let us know how you are doing and how we can be q for you.

All for His glory,  
Spencer and Joanna

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