



Borbas' Report

January & February 2022

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

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**Dear mission partners!
How are you?**

2022 is here and it already is a year full of excitement and hope for the future. We are so happy and pleased to share this first report of the year with you all!

BIBLE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE

- In late January we started a new Bible study which is now taking place in our apartment. This year we are studying the Gospel of Mark.
- We have had great attendance which includes some of our Brazilian church members and also neighbors and a few English students. We continue to have great participation online via Zoom as well. Several devices connect with us from Florida, Texas and, of course, Brazil.
- We share a meal together and then start the study afterwards.



Several people connect with us on Zoom.



Our Bible study in Portuguese which now meets in our apartment.

ENGLISH CLASSES

- This year we have lost some LST students. However, we have kept some of the old students who continue to study English and the Bible with us. The good news is that we also have quite a few new students as well. One example is a couple from Sao Paulo. Their names are Paulo and Vanessa. They have been in the USA for many years.

**ESTUDO BÍBLICO
EM
PORTUGUÊS**



TERÇAS-FEIRAS
JANTA ÀS 19H
ESTUDO ÀS 19:30H



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VENHA PARTICIPAR CONOSCO!

DE FORMA PRESENCIAL E TAMBÉM ONLINE (ZOOM E FACEBOOK LIVE)

They both have conversational English and are able to follow along with the LST booklet. I am studying the Gospel of Luke with them in English.

- Another good news is that we have started a group class on Thursday evenings. This class is taking place at the church building in Coral Springs. We have a total of 5 students that are taking basic English lessons.



Our group class on Thursdays. We started with three students and now have five.



Some of our LST students: Paulo and Vanessa, above; and Cristiano, below.



WORK IN THE SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST, IN CORAL SPRINGS

- The beginning of the year was marked by a quick surge of the Omicron variant all over the country. Florida was no different and several church families caught it in the first few weeks of the year. We praise the Lord that everybody here in our congregation only developed mild symptoms.

- For about four weeks, starting in mid-December, we started collecting specific items and put together 10 packages to be sent to Christian refugees. The organization we worked with was Voice of the Martyrs. The whole congregation joined forces in this effort, and it was so rewarding to see so many people being involved. On January 15 we had a meal together at church after the worship service and put together the packages which were sent out the following week.

- We continue to have good number of Brazilians who are attending with us on Sundays, even though we are still only offering bilingual services in Spanish-English. On Sunday, January 30, we had a total of 15 Portuguese speakers at church with us! On that day, after church, we all went out and ate lunch together.

- In late February the Springs Church of Christ celebrated their 8th anniversary!

Worship service on Sundays.



Some of our kids!



Having lunch together and putting together the packages for Christian refugees.



A great gathering of Portuguese speakers at church. This was the Sunday when the Dyes were with us.

THE LIRAS AND OUR CHURCH PLANT PROJECT

- The Liras were in and out of Florida as they were also visiting sponsors in Texas and Arkansas. While in Florida, they stayed with us in our apartment. All this time together was great for us to further bond with each other.
- Junior and Maikon continued to meet every day as they prepared for our presentation to the sponsoring churches.
- Unfortunately, because of the high number of Covid cases all over the country in early January, we were forced to cancel our meeting with the sponsoring churches here in South Florida. Instead, we decided to have the meeting in Searcy in late February.
- The meeting with the sponsors in Searcy was a huge success. Everybody was really impressed and pleased with our project and we all left very happy and hopeful that the Lord will bless our mission together here in South Florida. We are eager to share with you news about the project as everything develops.
- The Liras are set to move to South Florida now in March. They already found an apartment in Boca Raton and will spend several weeks settling down and adjusting to their new life here in America. We're so joyful and excited to have them here with us!



Admiring God's amazing creation. We took the Liras to see the sunset at the Everglades.

Meeting with our sponsoring churches in Searcy, AR.



NEW VISAS AND TRIP TO BRAZIL

- As you all know, Tati's R-2 paperwork arrived in late December! This has allowed us to now finally start making plans for a really anticipated trip to Brazil to visit family and friends! Joanna and our families will meet at last!!

- We have bought tickets and will be in Brazil from late March until early May. While in Brazil, besides spending time with loved ones, we will also:

- o Have an appointment at the American consulate in Porto Alegre. This will be the final step in our visa saga as we need to get the actual R1-R2 visas stamped in our passports so that we will be allowed to re-enter into the USA!

- o Work with some of the local churches of Christ in our hometown and the area. Maikon will be preaching a series of sermons on Sundays in our congregation in Novo Hamburgo and in Porto Alegre. Tati will be hosting a ladies afternoon tea and Bible study on Saturday, April 9, in Porto Alegre.

COVID-19

- Both Tati and I caught Covid on December 31 and it lasted until around January 7. Unfortunately, Maikon struggled with some of the symptoms a lot longer after testing negative.

- As mentioned before, the pandemic took a bad turn with Omicron here in South Florida around the holiday season but most people developed mild symptoms.

- Unfortunately, some people take Covid a lot harder. This is what happened to one of our beloved supporters, Mr. Roland Esparza. Mr. Roland and his wife Jane are family to us here in America and we were so very sad when we learned that he had succumbed to this horrible disease. We took a quick trip to Fort Worth (TX) to be with Mama Jane during these difficult times. We share with her sorrow but at the same time rejoice in the fact that Papa Roland is indeed in a better place now.

With our sweet Mama Jane, in Fort Worth.



NEW NEIGHBORS:

- We have new front-door neighbors and they are Brazilian! We are very excited and have tried to help them as much as possible, since they have recently moved here from Brazil and are having to restart their lives from scratch. The couple, Mariel and Ildener, have two daughters, Bia and Rafaela. Joanna is very happy that she has two new friends now! The family is already very involved with us. They have attended church with us and they're also participating in our Bible Study in Portuguese on Tuesdays.

- In addition, Mariel and Ildener are part of the group class that we have on Thursday evenings. While the parents study English with Maikon, Tati stays home and offers free babysitting for their two daughters. Joanna surely enjoys her mac & cheese and movie night with her two neighbor-friends!



**Mariel and his beautiful family.
Joanna surely loves her two new
friends!**

VISITS FROM CHURCH FAMILY:

- In the past two months we had several people who came to visit us:
 - o Dennis and Linda Hlasta: Dennis was one of the elders at the Arlington CoC in Virginia. He and his wife now live in Florida, near Orlando. Dennis had a medical procedure in Miami and on their way back home they swung by and ate dinner with us in our apartment.

- o The Dye family: The Dyes are missionaries in Sao Luis, Brazil. Their son Jude is having surgeries on his legs here in West Palm Beach and whenever possible they come and attend church with us in Coral Springs.

- o Laurie Diles and her son Andrew: Laurie is a professor at Harding University. She's also the daughter of Howard and Jane Norton, former missionaries to Brazil. Andrew lives here in Hallandale Beach and attends church with us occasionally.

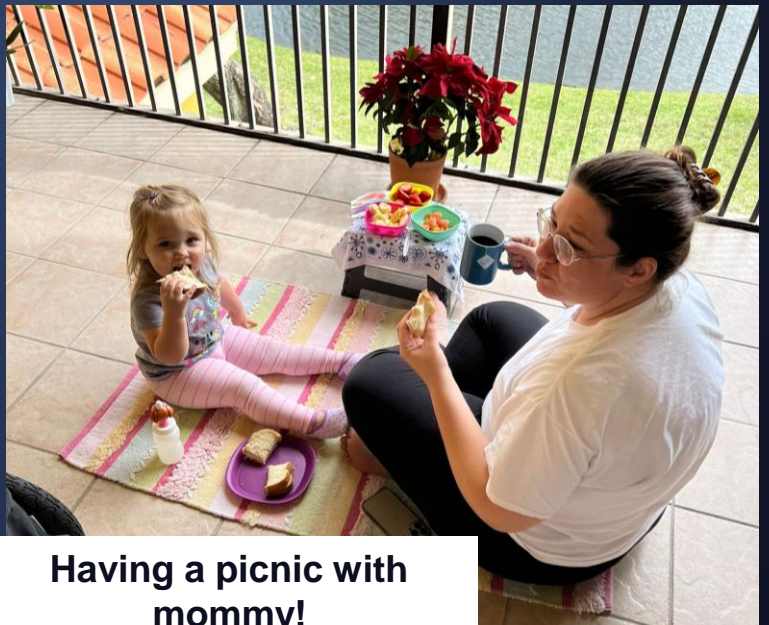


Eating lunch with Laurie and Andrew Diles.

With the Hlastas. Dennis was happy to finally be in one of “Maikon’s famous selfies”.

JOANNA

- Joanna is almost 2.5 years old now!
- Her vocabulary and language skills continue to blow us away. She’s able to carry out simple conversations, sing almost entire songs, memorize stories and books we read to her, among other things. And the most impressive thing is that she does it all in both English and Portuguese.
- She’s also making progress in her potty training.



Having a picnic with mommy!

MISCELLANEOUS:

- In early January some Brazilian missionaries who work with a congregation in New Jersey were in Orlando and invited us to spend a few days there with them. The couple is called Ricardo and Teresa Cornetione. While in Orlando, we took a 1-day family trip to Disney! We went to Magic Kingdom and made a long childhood dream come true! Joanna loved seeing the princesses and we were all mesmerized by the firework display at night!
- In early February, while in Texas for Mr. Esparza's celebration of life, we got to meet with the Sanchez family. Lance and Brittany were former colleagues of ours in the CAMT/BMIN program at Harding University.
- Great news from our home church in Novo Hamburgo. They had two baptisms in February!
- Maikon's 97-year-old grandmother has been really sick for over a month. She had shingles on her face and it developed into a bad infection. She's been in and out of the hospital and last we heard she was getting progressively worse.



**Teresa and Ricardo
Cornetione, from New
Jersey.**



**Our first ever trip to
Disney World!**



**With the Sanchez family
in Fort Worth, TX.**





LET US PRAY

**Please help us pray for
Maikon's grandmother!**

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please continue to pray for the following:
 - Our work with the church here in South Florida.
 - The COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Our LST students and outreach efforts.
 - The Lira family: their settling down here in South Florida and Patricia's pregnancy.
 - Our team formation and the future developments of our church plant.
 - Our trip to Brazil now at the end of March and our interview at the American consulate.
 - The war in Ukraine.

WE LOVE YOU! Come see us here in South Florida!

In Jesus,

The Borbas (Maikon, Tati and Joanna)