

**Faith is what makes  
real the things we  
hope for.  
It is proof of what we  
cannot see.  
*Hebrews 11:1 (ERV)***



**Borbas' Report**  
**March & April 2021**

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## Dear partners in the Gospel! How are you?

These past two months have been a roller coaster of emotions! We continue to be excited and happy with our work here in South Florida but at the same time we can't help but worry about our new visas and what may or may not happen to us. It gives us great joy knowing that you have all been praying for us and the fact that we are in God's hands – and as we like to say: there's no better place to be in than in His hands!!

### BABY JOANNA

- Joanna is now 18.5 months (as of the end of April). It's so hard to believe that we already have a 1.5-year-old! She is still growing as she should and continues to be as healthy as always! We praise God for her life every day!
- She's developing her speaking skills really quickly and we are constantly blown away with how smart she is! She already knows most of her ABCs and can count from 1 to 10, in both English and Portuguese. We have been posting several videos of her on Facebook recently and we hope you've had a chance to see them.
- Joanna loves Jesus and that's what makes us the happiest! She points to crosses and says "Jesus" and she loves to pray before meals and with mommy before going to bed. One of her favorite things to do is going to Bible class (which she calls "tootoo class").





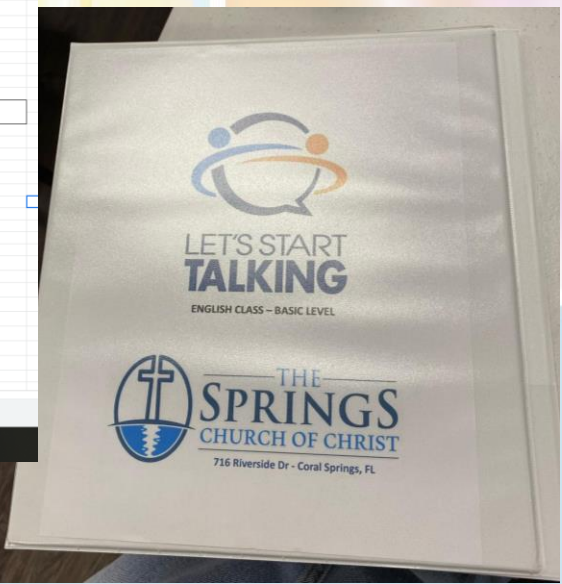
## LET'S START TALKING

- Let's Start Talking continues to be our main evangelistic tool and it is still being great for us to meet people and start forming relationships with them. Please continue to pray for our students.
- A few students have given up, but we have quickly been able to add new ones.
- On Friday, April 16, we had our first LST party of the year. We had some church friends visiting us from Daingerfield, Texas, and together we organized and hosted the party. The LST parties are meant to promote interaction between the church and the LST students and also to provide the students with an opportunity to learn more about the American culture. Several church members and LST students came, and we had lots of fun learning more about Texas while eating delicious BBQ!!
- In April, we started a group class at the building. Because we have all been packed with one-on-one lessons during the week, we decided it would be a good way to offer the ESL classes for more people. We have about 8 students who are taking basic English lessons from 10:30 to 12:00 every Saturday morning. Maikon, Riley, and Mauricio are taking turns teaching the class each week.

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V8bpl3fZOm60ewToiX7a-zcVDYFSq18m/edit#gid=1232748748

Maikon LST 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
07:00 - 07:30 AM							
07:30 - 08:00 AM							
08:00 - 09:00 AM		Flavia de Oliveira	Thanise Zanato	Flavia de Oliveira	Thanise Zanato		
09:00 - 09:30 AM							
09:30 - 10:00 AM			Adriana Defaria		Marcio Borba		
10:00 - 10:30 AM				Gabriel DaPoian			
10:30 - 11:00 AM		Talles Ribeiro					LST GROUP CLASS AT CHURCH
11:00 - 11:30 AM					Regis Jochims		
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM							
12:00 - 12:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	Meeting with Riley and Mauricio	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	
12:30 - 01:00 PM							
01:00 - 01:30 PM		Alessandra de Lima	Eder & Martha Villalba	Eder & Martha Villalba			
01:30 - 02:00 PM							
02:00 - 02:30 PM			Thomas Batista	Thomas Batista			
02:30 - 03:00 PM							
03:00 - 03:30 PM		Natacha Almeida			Dayse E. De Lima		
03:30 - 04:00 PM			Dayse E. De Lima				
04:00 - 04:30 PM							
04:30 - 05:00 PM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK			
05:00 - 05:30 PM							
05:30 - 06:00 PM							
06:00 - 06:30 PM		Cristiano Casoto & Matheus Cunha			Cristiano Casoto & Matheus Cunha		
06:30 - 07:00 PM							
07:00 - 07:30 PM							
07:30 - 08:00 PM		Marcio Borba					
08:00 - 08:30 PM							
08:30 - 09:00 PM							



## WORK WITH THE CHURCH IN CORAL SPRINGS

- What a joy and blessing it's been to be working with the church in Coral Springs!! We thank the Yegros and Hendrixes for taking us in and making us feel like family!
- We both continue to be as involved as we can. Maikon helps during the worship service and Tati helps teaching the kids' classes.
- On Sunday, March 7, the church here celebrated their 7th anniversary. We had a good turnout that day and celebrated afterwards with delicious cupcakes. For the sermon, Riley preached in Spanish and Maikon translated it into English!
- In late March, Benji and Jill Nicholas came here on a survey trip. Benji is a former graduate from Harding University and is about to finish his master's degree at HST in Memphis. The couple is looking for a place to come and work as missionaries and they are considering moving here to help the work with the Hispanic population. We had a great time meeting them and we are now having some follow-up meetings with them as they make a final decision.
- On Wednesday, March 31, we attended a Gospel Meeting at the Palm Beach Lakes CoC, in West Palm Beach. It was an awesome opportunity to meet new brothers and sisters in Christ in the area.
- On Saturday, April 3, the church hosted an event for the Venezuelan community. An immigration attorney was at the building helping and answering questions about a new law that is going to help immigrants from Venezuela who are seeking asylum and refuge. The church building was packed and we had almost 90 people who attended the event.
- On Easter Sunday, we had a super fun egg hunt at a local park in Coral Springs. Several families attended and the kids had a blast! Joanna found many eggs!
- In mid-April we started meeting at the building for a Bible study in Spanish (which had been taking place only via Zoom). We are also having Bible classes for the kids and youth. The participation has been small, and we are struggling to get members to come to the building. Riley's Bible study in English continues to take place on Friday evenings only via Zoom and Facebook Live. Even though the participation during the week has not been all that great, we've had larger groups attending on Sundays.





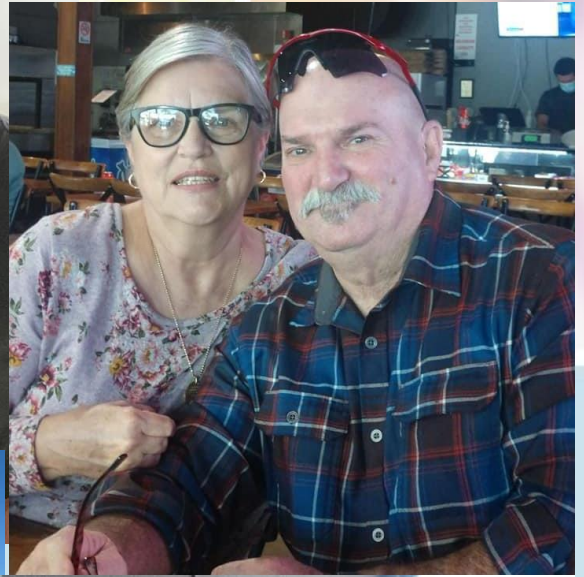
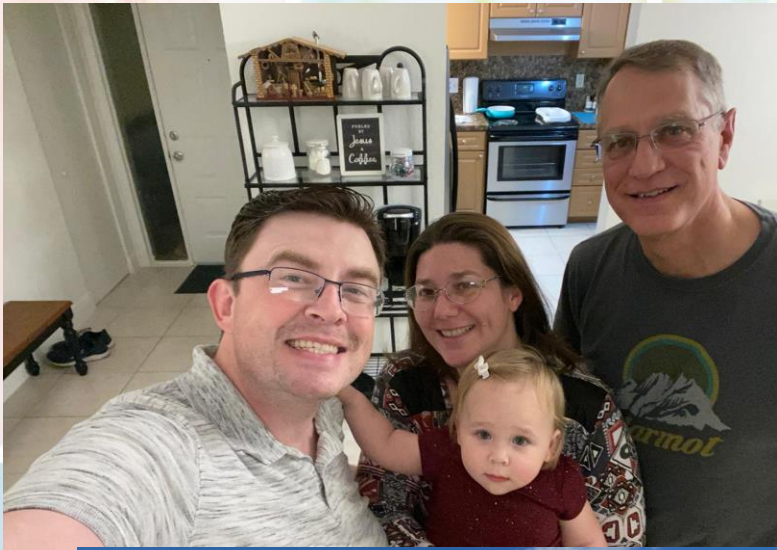
## BIBLE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE

- Our Bible study in Portuguese continues to be a blessing. We meet every Thursday at 7:00 pm at the church building for a meal and then have our Bible study at 7:30.
- Unfortunately, Jaelson and Marli have stopped attending. However, we have had great online participation. Several brothers and sisters from Texas and Brazil are attending the meeting via Zoom or Facebook Live.



## CHURCH FRIENDS VISITING

- We have been quite busy having church family visiting us here in South Florida! We have loved their visits, nonetheless!
- In early March, Ken Graves from Searcy, Arkansas, came to spend a few days with us. Ken is one of the elders at the Cloverdale CoC and also the Director of Global Outreach at Harding University. He used part of his Spring break to visit with us to encourage us and also survey the area so that future summer mission teams from Harding University can come to help us. Ken, we thank you for your love and encouragement!
- In mid-March, Juaneyla and Barbara White came from Daingerfield, Texas. It was Barbara's Spring break and the two came to spend some time with us. The White family were missionaries in Porto Alegre (our state capital in Southern Brazil) for 13 years. We loved having "Baba Ju" and "Larila" (as Joanna calls them) over with us for that week!
- Finally, in mid-April, two families from Daingerfield, Texas, came as well. Chuck & Terry Lee and Chris & Misty Andrews used part of their vacation to encourage us and we are so happy they did! That week, brother Chuck preached for us on Sunday and the two families helped us with our LST party on Friday.
- Thank you to everybody who came to see and encourage us!! Also, we hope this serves as an incentive for more people to come. We love being hosts!!

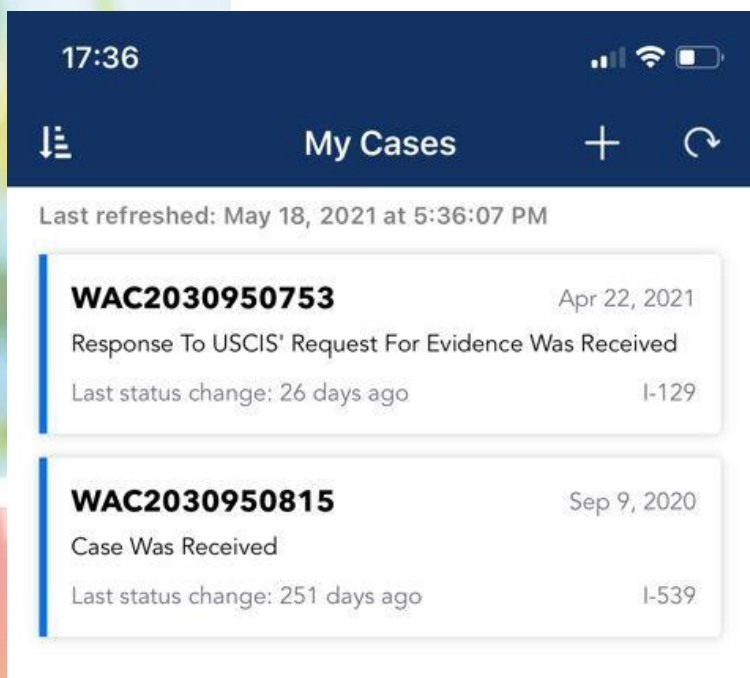


## NEW VISAS

- Still no news from USCIS about our visas. Please continue to pray.
- In early April, the Village CoC received a letter from USCIS requesting some more documentation to be sent, which the church did right away. The new forms and documents were received by USCIS on April 22 and they have now resumed working on our case. According to most sites that I consulted online, we should be hearing back from them with a decision in a maximum of 60 days after receiving our response to their Request for Evidence (RFE).



- It is very likely that our current work permit will expire before the new visas come in. If this is indeed the case, we have planned to do the following:
  - ✓ We are allowed to stay in the US while we wait for a final decision from USCIS and that's what we want to do.
  - ✓ However, this means that we will no longer be able to keep working (once our work permit expires). We will also no longer be able to drive (because our driver's licenses will have expired too).
  - ✓ We are going to empty our retirement savings and live off that for as long as we can. The Village CoC will help us pay for our rent using their benevolent funds. We may have to accept some donations and if it comes to that point we will let you know.
  - ✓ We pray and hope that this will just have to take place for a short period of time. Once the new visas arrive, then the Village CoC will re-hire us and life will get back to normal.
  - ✓ In the worst-case scenario of us having our visas denied, then we will have to leave for Brazil as soon as possible. We are planning for that event and Joanna already has her American passport ready.



## THE PANDEMIC

- The COVID-19 pandemic is a lot better here in Broward County. A great number of people have been vaccinated and the restrictions are being lifted.
- Too bad we can't say the same thing about Brazil. Brazil's numbers are still very worrisome and vaccination there is way behind. Most of our older family members have already received at least one dose of the Coronavac vaccine and we hope they will all be fully vaccinated soon.
- Both Tati and I have received the two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. We feel good and safer to deal with the public now. Being fully vaccinated also means it will be easier for us to travel to Brazil if we have to.

## HELP DURING THE SUMMER

- In June we will have an intern from Harding University working with us. His name is William Robins and he is a Bible and Missions graduate like Maikon. William will be helping us with Let's Start Talking as well as assisting in other church activities.
- Also in June, we will have two church groups visiting and helping us organize VBSs for the children in the community. One of these teams is coming from the Netherland CoC in Rickman, Tennessee. Geoff Lopina (a former colleague of Maikon's in the CAMT/BMIN program at Harding University) is the leader of this group. The second group that is coming is from the Parkway CoC in Fulton, Kentucky. They're one of Mauricio Yegros's supporters.
- In addition, we're keeping in touch with Craig Altrock from Let's Start Talking and hope to have a team sent to work with us possibly in July or August.

## TEAM FORMATION

- In our previous report we mentioned to you the Dawsons and their plans to move to South Florida and join in the work with us. For the previous few months we have had several meetings with Paul Dawson and some of our supporting churches to get approval and work on some details. However, Paul recently called me and alleged that, due to a number of factors, he and his wife have given up on the idea. We were sorry to hear this news but we pray God's blessings for them as they continue to work for the Kingdom.
- On the same day that Paul Dawson called to tell us about their final decision, we received a phone call from Brazil. It was Junior and Patricia Lira, from the church in Brasilia. One of our supporting churches (the College CoC in Searcy, Arkansas) has been helping with the Liras' support in Brazil for many years and they are now willing to sponsor this family to move to the USA and help us here with the work in South Florida. We're very excited with this news and pray God's will to be done in the Liras' plans!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Our work here in South Florida.
- Our LST students.
- Our new visas.
- Tati's grandma (she's still in the same condition).
- Our summer activities (we'll be busy).
- The Nicholas and the Lira families and the possibility of them coming to work with us.



We love you and thank you for all that you do for us! Never forget, we're in this mission together!!

In Jesus,

**The Borbas**