

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NIV)



Dear mission partners! How are you doing?

What a busy summer we've had this year! As you will see in this special report, we had a very eventful last couple of months. We are so grateful for the amazing opportunity that we have to be serving our Lord in His kingdom as we minister to the immigrant population here in South Florida.



BAPTISMS IN MAY

- Zachary Feinberg: Zach, our new brother in Christ here in Coral Springs, has been friends with the Yegros family for several years. His wife was already a baptized believer and the family had been attending our bilingual services since last year. After months of Bible studies in their home, Zach was baptized by Mauricio this past May. Tati and I are glad to know that we have contributed in a small way to Zach's decision as Tati especially has been really good friends with Zach's wife, Elizabeth. Zach works at the Coral Springs hospital as a security guard. The couple has two children: Shema (3) and John (5).
- <u>Four baptisms in Novo Hamburgo:</u> we returned from Brazil on May 5 and within a few weeks four people were baptized in our home church.
- Mariane and Andressa Andrade: these are two cousins who have been in contact with the church since they were little. Maikon has known the two of them since they were babies. When they were children, they used to come to Bible classes at church with their father-uncle Serginho. Then, when they became teenagers and young adults, they stopped coming and went on living their own lives (got married, had their own children, etc). And then years later they started coming back to church. This is a great testimony that when the seed is planted in a child's young heart it may take years for it to develop but in its right time it will indeed grow! Thank you to sisters like Paula and all the other Sunday school teachers who love these kids and teach them about Jesus!

Your work is not overlooked by the Lord! Welcome to our Christian family, Mariane and Andressa!! Our hearts were filled with joy when we heard this news!!

Elena and Tiago Presser: mother and son have been attending church since last year and they have also been attending our weekly Bible study in Portuguese via Zoom. Tiago, especially, was present every week when we were studying the Bible together on Tuesdays while we were in Novo Hamburgo. Maikon recalls this one evening in which he gave Tiago a ride home after the Bible study and the two talked about baptism in the car for almost a full hour. Welcome to our church family, Elena and Tiago!! This makes us so happy that our work here in South Florida is impacting people in Brazil as well.



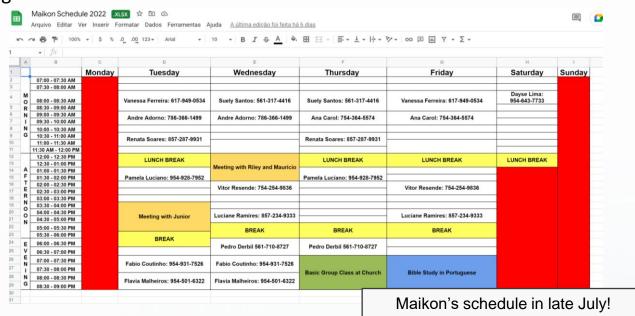
BIBLE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE

- As you probably recall from our latest report, while we were in Brazil Junior and Mr. Carlos changed the Bible study to Fridays, and also started meeting in the Liras' apartment in Boca Raton. This has proven to be a changing factor in the attendance. We believe Friday is a much better day for families, especially those with school children, because they don't need to worry about getting them ready for school Saturday morning. Also, most of our contacts live in or near Boca Raton and both distance and traffic are always important aspects for people here in South Florida.
- Tati and I were blown away on our first Friday back from Brazil and we saw so many people attending the Bible study in Junior and Patricia's apartment.
- We continue with the same formula of meeting for a meal and fellowship first and then having the Bible study. As we like to say, we've been offering people both physical and spiritual food!
- We've been averaging between 15-20 people (including children) on most weeks and we're also rotating houses among attendants. Besides the Liras and the Guzmans, two other families have offered to host the study in their homes at least once. This is very encouraging because we are already instilling in people the idea that they should be active and participative in the Kingdom.
- We continue to stream the study on Zoom also and we always have a couple of devices connected with us.
- Besides the missionary families, the Guzmans, and Carmen who are already members of the church here is a general breakdown of the families who have been attending:
- o <u>Silvana Reis-Medlin and her daughter Victoria:</u> Silvana is a former member of the church who was baptized by the Guzmans several years ago. We are so happy that we were able to bring her back to the church.
- Mariel de Jesus and his family: Mariel, along with his wife Ildener and their two daughters, are our front door neighbors. They have been attending the Bible study with us since February. They are professed Christians from Brazil and come from a Baptist/Pentecostal background. They are definitely people we are investing time in. The couple study English with Maikon and Tati helps taking care of their daughters whenever it is needed. Their older daughter, Bia, actively participated in all children-related activities we had at church this summer.
- O <u>Helga Sendberg and her mother Maria:</u> They are friends with the Guzmans and live in Delray Beach. They are both professed Christians and current members of a non-denominational church in Boca Raton but have enjoyed coming to our Bible study on Fridays.
- o <u>Alessandra de Lima and her daughter Catarina:</u> Alessandra is friends with Silvana and was invited by her. She is a Catholic and has loved being a part

of our group on Fridays. She has even offered to host the study in her house once already.

LET'S START TALKING

- While we were in Brazil, Mauricio and Riley helped Maikon with the English students. When we returned, Maikon promptly started connecting the students to re-start their lessons.
- Maikon also started running a new round of advertisement on Facebook and was blown away by the response and interest in the lessons and within a few days Maikon was able to fill up his schedule.
- We believe what has caused such a surge of interest in the Let's Start Talking program is the fact that the US boarders have re-opened for Brazilians in November/2021. Since then, we have clearly seen more and more Brazilians moving here.



THE BEAMON FAMILY

- The Beamons were with us helping with the LST lessons from June 6 to July 6. Jay and Maikon were colleagues at the Bible program at Harding University from 2018 to 2020.
- Jay and his wife Victoria taught the more intermediate/conversational students. They used the LST Luke material. In a few words, it basically consists of having a Bible study in English with a non-native speaker while you help them become more fluent and improve on their vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. While the Beamons were here, Maikon kept the more basic students.
- During their stay here with us, we held four LST get together parties at the church building in Coral Springs. These moments are meant to serve as an opportunity for the students to get to know each other and their teachers better. Jay and Victoria also used this time to teach their students a little more about the American culture thorough food, conversations, and games. Another important goal with these get togethers is that it's an important chance for church members to attend and start forming relationships with the students.

• We can say with confidence that this summer's LST intensive series was a tremendous success as both Jay and Victoria had a very busy schedule and together taught over 20 students.



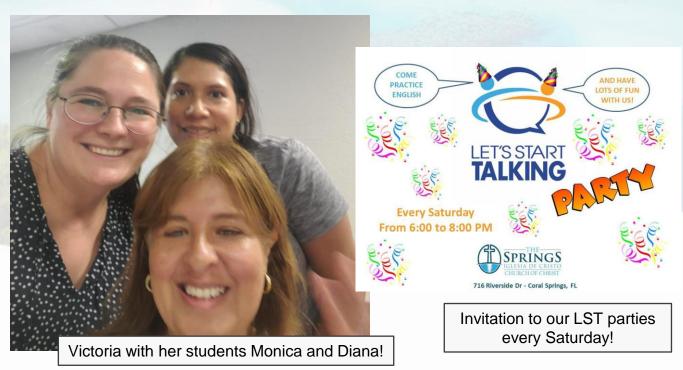


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They had a very busy month!



Victoria and her daughter Audriana with their student Pamela!

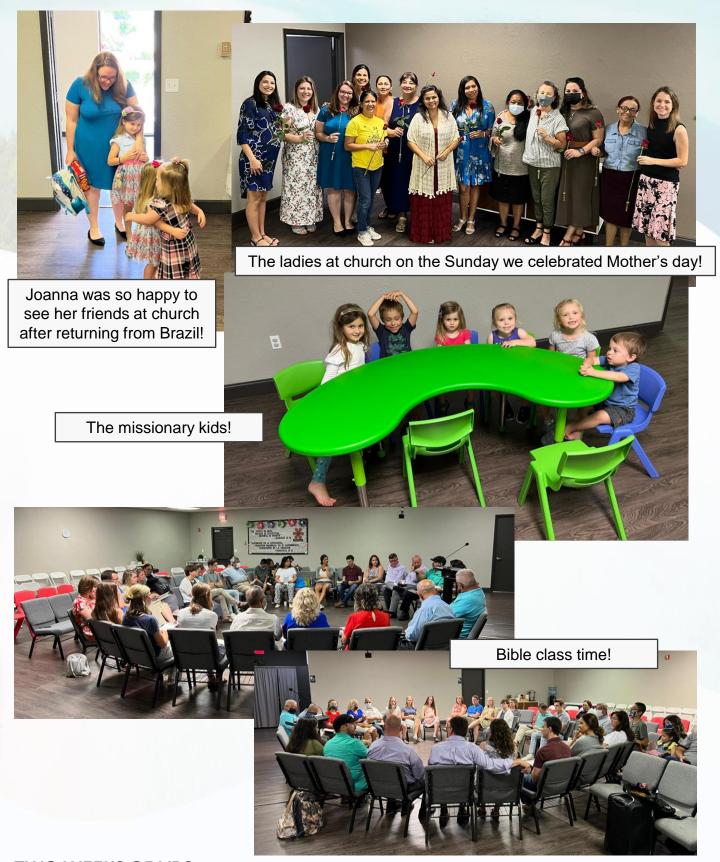




WORK WITH THE CHURCH IN CORAL SPRINGS

- This summer was meant to be our last few months working more involvedly with the Springs CoC as Junior and I are set to officially start working as a team now in August.
- Tati and I have been actively participating with the church by means of teaching classes and helping during the Sunday worship service. We will continue to attend church with them on Sundays until our Brazilian congregation has a place of our own and we're able to offer a worship service in Portuguese.
- As you will see in this report, we had really busy summer months with many activities which took place at the church building. These activities were planned and executed in partnership with the Springs church and served to give us many contacts from the community.
- It's become clear to us that (1) because we only currently offer services in Spanish and (2) the fact that the Springs church is so far removed from where most of the Brazilians live, most people feel discouraged to attend. However, we are very excited because in spite of all this, we've been having an average of 10-12 Portuguese-speakers at the Springs church every Sunday. This gives us great hope that, once we're able to have our own meeting place in the Boca Raton Pompano Beach area, more people will surely feel compelled to attend services with us





TWO WEEKS OF VBS:

- We had two weeks of VBS this month of June. They were really successful and on most days we had 25-30 kids and teens (pictures have been shared on Facebook). They took place at the church in Coral Springs but Tati and I were very involved.
- The first group that came was led by Will Hester from the Parkway CoC in Fulton, KY. They are one of Mauricio Yegros' contacts and this is their

second year coming to work with us.

• The second group that came in the last week of June is actually one of our own contacts. This group was led by Geoff Lopina from the Netherland CoC in Rickman, TN. Geoff and Maikon studied together at Harding University from 2016 to 2018. Geoff had already brought his group last year.

 We advertised this event among our English students and in the Brazilian community as well and some of the kids/teens that came were





GRACELAND – CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP

- From July 9-18 a group from the Cloverdale CoC in Searcy, AR, was here with us. Cloverdale is the church that we attended and served with while Maikon was a student at Harding University. The church is also one of our main supporters now.
- The group, led by brothers Jesse Robertson and Luke Dockery, planned for months and brought a really cool and elaborate Christian

camp experience. The event took place at the church building in Coral Springs from July 11-17.

- We did some intense advertisement which included flyers, banners and posts on social media and WhatsApp. The result truly exceeded our expectations, and we had an average of 35-40 kids attending on most days. This was so close to the maximum number of kids that the church building could accommodate. The week was extremely successful and everything worked out really smoothly. This is greatly thanks to the amazing leadership of sister Tricia.
- The most amazing thing was that the majority of the attendees were kids from the community! Several of these kids were Brazilian and we were able to make some good new contacts.
- The event ended on Saturday with a pizza party and graduation ceremony. On Sunday, brother Jesse preached to us at the Springs church.









NEXT EVENTS

- Tati will be helping sister Michelle Goff from Searcy, AR. Michelle is the director of the Iron Rose Sister Ministries and also the writer of several devotional books for ladies. Her books have already been translated into Spanish and now more recently into Portuguese as well.
- Michelle wants to do a soft launch of her books with the Brazilian community here in South Florida. The event will take place at the church in Coral Springs on September 9-10. It will also be broadcast to Brazil via Zoom so the church sisters there will be able to participate.
- This will be the first official event of our Brazilian church here in South Florida and Tati is super excited about it. Please pray that it will be a success!
- We're also planning to start hosting a bilingual worship service in Portuguese-English starting in September. Our idea is to rent a place and start meeting once a month to "test the waters" and see the response that we get. This will take place in this format until we have our own place sometime next year.

We're so excited about this upcoming event for the ladies!



Igreja de Cristo em Coral Springs

Evento bilingue: Português e Inglés
"Presencial e via Zoom"

(Pequenos grupos em espanhol também!)

852 1986 3308 Sexta-feira, 9 de Setembro às 18:30 h & Sábado, 10 de Setembro das 8:30h às 14:00 h



Hermana Rosa de Hierro
IrmaRosa de Ferro.com

THE LIRAS AND TEAM FORMATION

- Hannah Sophie is almost here! She's due any day now and, in fact, by the time you read this report she may have already be here with us.
- Still no visas for the Liras. Please continue to pray for their R1-R2 visas to be approved as soon as possible. Junior will not be able to fully work until he has his paperwork in hands.
- We are set to start working together officially as a team now in August.
- We have been in talks with Great Cities Mission from Dallas, Texas, and we're happy to inform that they will be our partners in our mission work. We'll rely on their expertise in Latin America and count on their thorough assistance.
- In June, we held a baby shower for the Liras at the church building!



TATI

- Tati hosted a tea party for the Brazilian ladies in the afternoon on June 23. It was a special moment in which they ate together and had a devotional.
- She continues to be the cook for our Bible study on Fridays. Everyone always compliments her on her cooking. I think I will need to buy her a bigger *Instapot* as the group keeps growing.
- Tati has been watching the nursery on Sunday mornings at church. She also helps with the pre-school class whenever needed.
- We hope that Tati will be able to do some odd jobs on the days that Joanna goes to school in order to contribute a little to our income.



VISITS FROM DEAR FRIENDS

• Justin Frazier (Jamey and Angel Frazier's son) came to visit us in July. He and his family were here in Fort Lauderdale for a week and dropped by for a cup of coffee. We are so excited to know that they will soon be having a baby girl.

- James and Kim Hofsiss from Virginia came to see us on June 18. They were on a trip to Miami and dropped by on their way back home. Maikon met them as they attended church together in Arlington when Maikon was an exchange student there in 2006-2007. Maikon and the Hofsiss family became good friends while two of their sons attended the youth group at the Arlington CoC when Maikon volunteered as the youth intern.
- The Diles family attended church with us on July 24. Allen and Laurie's son Andrew lives here in Hallandale Beach and he attends church with us sometimes.



JOANNA

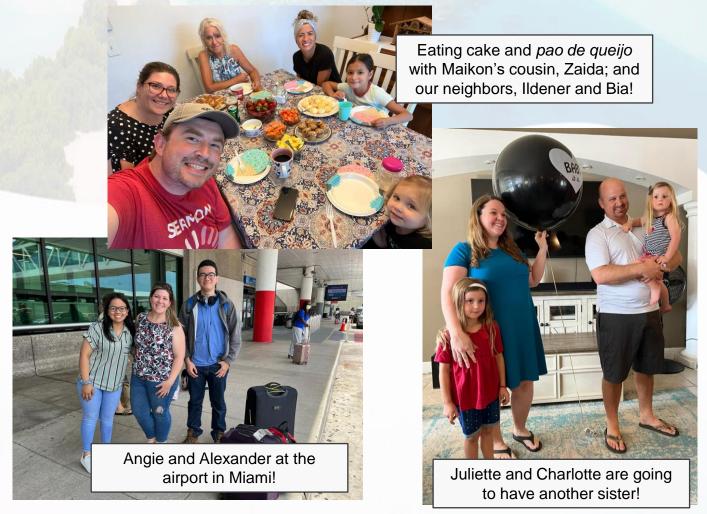
- Joanna will be 3 in just a few months! Time does fly!
- We potty trained her in late May and she mastered it! She's doing so well and we're really proud of her!
- She's set to start going to a day care now in August. She will be attending the Royal Palm Christian Academy in Coral Springs. It's owned and operated by the local Christian Church, which is the closest we could find to a church of Christ school in the area. Joanna will be attending full time, three days a week (Tuesday through Thursday). We are excited because she so needs it in order to better socialize and also be more challenged intellectually.
- However, we can't help but be worried also because it will be a huge added expense to our budget. Tuition costs \$185 per week for three full days.



MISCELLANEOUS:

- Maikon's cousin, Zaida, is here in South Florida for a few months. She's visiting her brother Marcio and will be here until the end of August.
- Two HU students had layovers in Miami and we helped them by hosting them for two nights on their way in and out of the country. Angie is from Honduras and Alexander is from Nicaragua. They both went on a mission trip to Lithuania as part of a Global Outreach program with HU. This is the same trip that Maikon and Tati led in 2019.
- We celebrated our 12th anniversary on July 24! We thank our Lord for blessing our family through all these years!

The Hendrixes are expecting their third child and it's going to be a baby girl!
 We rejoice with them!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Now that we found a good Christian academy for Joanna, help us pray that we will be able to afford paying for it every month.
- We are really concerned about the rise in the cost of living here in South Florida especially the renewal of our lease which will happen now in October. We're currently paying \$2,000 a month for our 3-bedroom apartment and a similar place here in the area is now costing between \$2,500 3,000.
- Please pray for Tati's family in Brazil. Her aunt's husband, Fernando, had a motorcycle accident in June and severely broke a foot. Now, on top of grandma Celoy, Tati's mom needs to take care of Fernando also.
- Patricia and baby Hannah Sophie!
- The Liras' visas.
- Our English students.
- The future of our Brazilian congregation.

We love you all and thank you so much for taking the time to read our report!