

Borbas' Report

August & September 2022

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

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Dear mission partners!

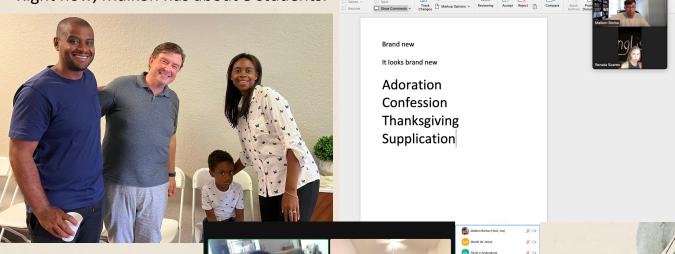
How are you?

After a super busy summer, things calmed down a little. Nevertheless, hold on tight for we still have some pretty exciting news to share with you! This is our recollection of the past two months:

LET'S START TALKING - ENGLISH LESSONS

- As you saw in our previous report, during the summer we had a great increase in the number of people interested in the English lessons that we offer. Unfortunately, especially in the month of September, several students started canceling because of work or school related commitments.
- One of the main reasons for this has to do with the fact that the Free ESL classes offered by the Broward County finally resumed in person (after only being offered virtually for almost two years because of the pandemic). This has drawn many of the students. However, their classes are always full, and the quality of the service offered is not the best. One of the advantages that we offer is the fact that our classes are one-on-one and personalized to each student. Maikon hopes and prays that, after experiencing class in a very large group setting, most of the students will want to come back.

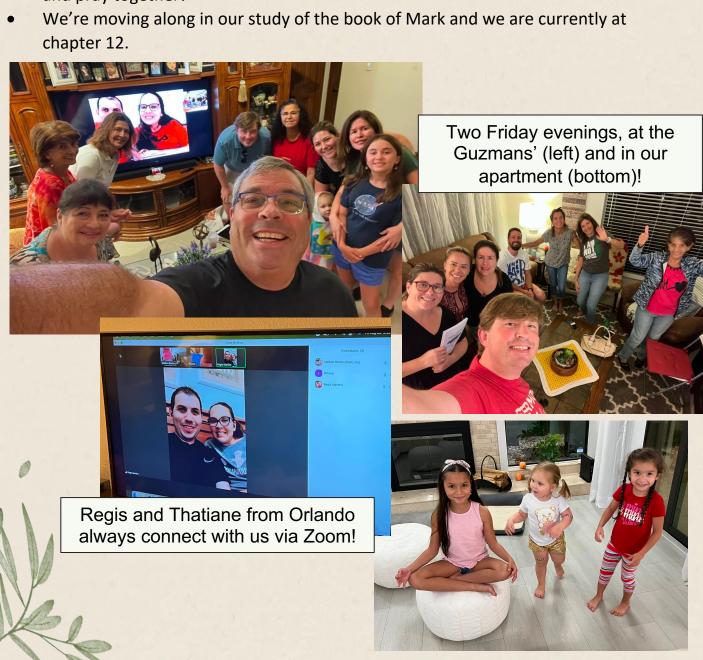
Right now, Maikon has about 8 students.



Maikon and some of his several ESL students

BIBLE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE

- Our Bible studies on Friday evenings continue to be very successful and well attended. We have exceeded 20 people in attendance on several Fridays!
- We've also had 3 new families that have been attending with us regularly for the past few weeks. Two of these are Carlos and Erika Guzman's daughters, Alexandra and Suzanna. We're so excited!
- We continue to meet at the Guzmans' home on most Fridays, even though we
 have also had a nice rotation in different houses. In the past two months,
 we've met in our apartment once and in two other homes as well.
- The format remains a combination of a meal, Bible study and lots of fellowship. People love to open up and share about their week. We laugh, cry and pray together!





THE LIRAS:

- Junior and Patricia's baby girl, Hannah Sophie, was born in late July (right after we sent out our previous report). We are so happy and excited for the new parents and rejoice with their most amazing blessing!
- Junior's R1 visa was finally approved in August praise God!! Patricia's R2 visa is still pending, and we pray she receives it soon!





WORK WITH THE CHURCH IN CORAL SPRINGS

- We continue to tag along with the Springs Church of Christ, even though we're most definitely starting to branch out from them as we keep on developing our Brazilian congregation.
- We hope and pray that The Springs and our new Brazilian church will become "sister churches". Both parties want to remain close friends and offer mutual support to each other. We also plan to do several events in partnership with one another such as retreats, camps, and Gospel meetings.
- Maikon has stopped participating in meetings with Riley and Mauricio.
 However, as we continue to attend church with them Sunday mornings, he still helps in the worship service in various forms. Tati continues volunteering as a Sunday school teacher for the kids.
- On August 14, we had a special back to school worship service in which we prayed over the children and teens and asked our Lord to bless their school year!



SOUTH FLORIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Now that Junior's visa has been approved, he's finally able to work without any restrictions. Thus, we have officially started working as a team this past August! The South Florida Church of Christ is already taking form and we're beyond excited!!
- Our first official event was the ladies conference that Tati helped organize in early September. As we mentioned in our previous report, the event was planned by Michelle Goff, the director of the Iron Rose Sister Ministries. It was held in Coral Springs, at The Springs church. The

conference, which was titled "Women Connected in Christ", was hybrid (in person and online) and bilingual (Portuguese and English). On both days we had over 30 women who attended in person and over 45 devices that connected online via Zoom. Church sisters from all over Brazil participated virtually!

- On top of the free English as a second language (ESL) classes that Maikon has been offering here for the immigrant community, we're now offering free pastoral counseling as well as personal Bible studies – both in Portuguese.
- We've been working on our church's visual identity. We already have a logo and a Facebook page set up. Please like and follow our page following this link: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085835006238. We hope to have a proper website and email address soon.

FIRST BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE IN PORTUGUESE-ENGLISH:

- We had our very first bilingual worship service on September 25.
- We booked the clubhouse at Junior and Patricia's apartment complex in Boca Raton.
- We considered this to be a soft launch of our congregation. However, because of space limitations, we didn't do much advertisement and basically only invited our small group that meet on Fridays and our Let's Start Talking students. God is amazing and we still ended up having 40 people in attendance of which 13 were children and teens.
- The service was also broadcast on our Facebook page and several people were able to watch it online.
- We will be hosting our worship service in Portuguese and English once a month, until we have our own space. In the meantime, for the remaining Sundays of the month, we will continue attending church on Sundays at The Springs church in Coral Springs.
- Lord wiling, we will soon be able to properly rent our own store front space and we will then do a formal inauguration! Please, go ahead and start planning a trip to South Florida for some time next year!







Our two missionary families on the day we had our first bilingual service!





The three main services that we are offering to the community: ESL classes, pastoral counseling, and personal Bible studies – all 100% free of charge!





NEXT EVENTS

- Our family will be in Arkansas from October 13-17. We will be attending the Mission Emphasis Week at the Village CoC in Hot Springs Village. Maikon will be preaching at our sponsoring church on Sunday, October 16.
- Our next bilingual worship service in Portuguese-English will take place on October 23. It will, again, be at the club house in the apartment complex where the Liras live.



The invitation to our second bilingual service, coming up now on October 23.

JOANNA

- Joanna started attending daycare in August! She's going to Royal Palm Christian Preschool in Coral Springs. As you know, she's always loved learning and she is truly enjoying going to school. She's going part time, three mornings a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday).
- She's growing up so fast and will be turning 3 on October 14! We praise and thank our God every day for having her in our lives!



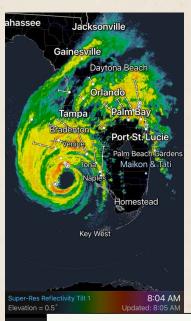


Joanna started school in August!

HURRICANE IAN

- As you all know, Ian hit the west coast of Florida pretty harshly. We pray for those families who lost their houses and loved ones in this truly horrible disaster.
- We are very grateful that our area was not badly affected. We had a lot of rain only.
- Our next-door neighbors had family over with them for a couple of days.
 Mariel's cousin lives in Fort Myers and had to evacuate. We helped them by sharing an air mattress with them. We also invited part of his family to stay

with us in our apartment.

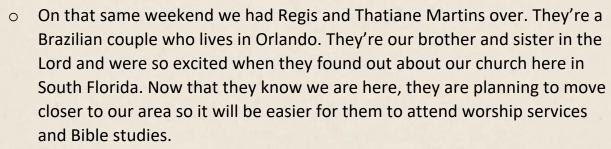




We had the neighbors' kids over to play with Joanna while it was raining cats and dogs outside!

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- August and September were two busy months for us as we hosted several dear friends and church family!
 - A church sister from Arkansas, named Ciara Lopez, stayed with us for a few days in August during a layover period. She was going to travel to Nicaragua to visit her husband who lives and works there.
 However, because of flight problems, she was only able to board after a couple of days. Our Searcy friend, Toni Rea, called us and asked if we could host Ciara for a few days.
 - Deborah Sue, a longtime friend from Daingerfield, Texas, stayed with us for Labor Day weekend. Deborah is our sister in Christ and we met her in 2012 in Brazil when she was part of the mission team led by the Daingerfield CoC.



Michelle Goff, her mother Jocelynn, and Sabrina Nino (who helps Michelle in the Iron Rose Sister Ministries) stayed with us in our apartment while they were here for the ladies' conference in September.

And last but not least, our great friend and sister in Christ Ju White (who was invited by Tati to attend the ladies' conference here) stayed with us that same weekend. We had four people over in our apartment for the

duration of the ladies' event!



MISCELLANEOUS:

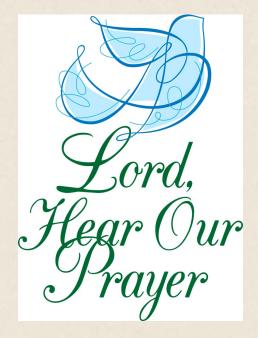
Tati celebrated her 40th birthday on September 25! Joanna and I are so grateful for her life! Maikon turned 39 on October 3! We thank you all for the birthday cards, phone calls, texts, etc. We both love you all so much!

- In early August we got a call from our landlord in which he informed us that he would be raising our rent from \$2,000 to \$2,500 a month! It was such a crazy increase that we started hectically looking for a new place to live. For over a month we searched for a home in the area but couldn't find anything that was better and/or cheaper that what we already had here. We ended up agreeing to move to a smaller condo in Pompano Beach and, when we finally told our landlord that we would be leaving his property, he then told us that he would let us stay for an additional year paying the same \$2,000 a month! Talk about answered prayers!! We thank so many of you who have prayed with us and helped us financially during these difficult and stressful times!
- We randomly met a brother in the Lord here in South Florida. His name is Joel Jacob and he's a Brazilian who lives in Boca Raton. He's the handyman that our landlord sent to fix a few things here in our apartment. When he arrived, we started to do some small talk to him and Tati served him some coffee. When we told him that we're here working as missionaries for the church of Christ, he looked puzzled. A few minutes later he came to the kitchen with his phone in his hands and showed us one of his Facebook contacts — Rui Diogo. "Do you know this couple?", he asked. We answered: "We sure do! They're friends of ours, missionaries too in Brazil." He then proceeded to tell us that he and his family moved to the USA about 20 years ago. They first lived in Lubbock, Texas, where they met Rui and Nadia. This was at the same time that Rui and also Mark White (who also knows Joel) were students at Sunset. It turns out that Joel studied the Bible with Rui and was even baptized by him!! This means that we had a "lost" brother in Christ here in South Florida who had no idea about us and the church being here!! Isn't God amazing??? He is now a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church but we will definitely keep in touch with him. We have invited him for our Bible studies and worship service on Sundays. Please help us pray for Joel and that he will



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- The South Florida Church of Christ and the future of our Brazilian congregation.
- Our two families as we continue to work and bond together.
- Patricia and baby Hannah Sophie!
- Patricia's R2 visa.
- Our contacts and English students.



As always, we can't say enough how much we appreciate what you all do for us!! We love you all so much!

In Jesus,

Maikon, Tati and Joanna

