



Borbas' Report

May & June 2021

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*I lift my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121: 1-2 (ESV)

Dear partners in the Gospel!

How are you?

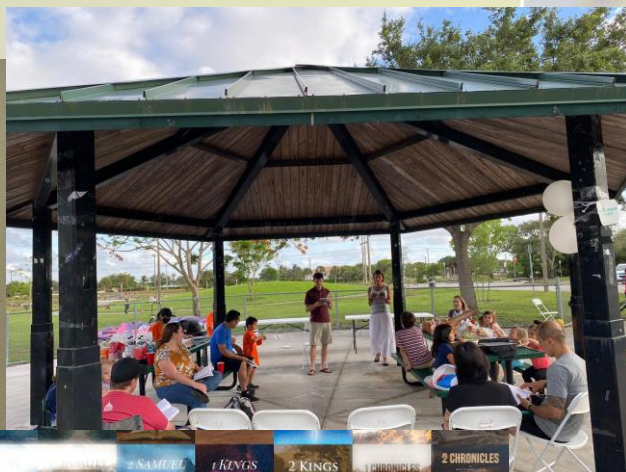
These past two months (May & June) have been filled with contradictory emotions to us. On one side, we were so excited with the work the Lord has allowed us to do here. On the other side, our work permit expired on May 31 and we have been out of status ever since. As you probably can imagine, we have been really anxious as we wait for our new visas to come (even though we know that we should trust the Lord... it's still very hard!).

WORK WITH THE CHURCH IN CORAL SPRINGS

- We keep on serving at the church in Coral Springs and we continue to grow closer to the other missionary families and church members.
- On Sunday (May 9) we celebrated Mother's Day at church. Riley brought a special message on Mary (the mother of Jesus) and all the mothers had fun taking pictures with their children.
- On Sunday (May 16) we had a family day at a park in Coral Springs. It was a moment for the church to gather as a family, to fellowship and spend good time together. We had a potluck, a small devotional, and of course, the kids had lots of fun playing together! Our plan is to have these events once a month as a way to promote integration among church members and also as a way to invite friends and reach out to the community.
- VBS weeks:
 - ☐ From June 7 to 18, we had two church groups visiting us and helping us with VBSs and a Gospel Meeting. One of these teams came from the Netherland CoC in Rickman, Tennessee. The associate minister, Geoff Lopina (a former colleague of Maikon's in the CAMT/BMIN program at Harding University), was the leader of this group. It was so good to see the Lopina family again and be encouraged by them! The second group that came was from the Parkway CoC in Fulton, Kentucky. They're one of Mauricio Yegros's contacts and supporters.
 - ☐ These two weeks were amazing! We had a great turnout of both kids and parents. The church here was encouraged and the teams that came were also happy to help and serve.

- Maikon continues to serve actively during the worship service by praying, presiding over the Lord's supper and offering, as well as preaching in both English and Spanish.
- Tati continues to teach the Bible class Sunday morning for the 6-12 year-olds.
- Starting in July we will be attempting the following changes for the summer months:

- ☐ Full bilingual service: instead of having two separate services (one in English and one in Spanish), we will start having one bilingual service at 10 AM. Everything will be done in the two languages and will be translated from one language into the other simultaneously. We believe this will have several benefits to the congregation: the worship service will be more attractive to bilingual families in the community and to the children and youth at church (who are bilingual and actually prefer to communicate in English). In addition, we think it will offer to our members a chance to learn some more English while they come to church.
- ☐ Bible class on Sundays: We will move the Spanish Bible study that we had been having on Wednesday evenings, to Sunday mornings after the worship service. The Bible study will now be in the format of a bilingual Bible class. This change has been inspired by the fact that we had been having very little participation during the week (due to people's work schedules). Our rationale is that since people come to the worship service on Sundays anyway, they might as well stay for 45 extra minutes and get a little bit more of Bible teaching.
- Riley's English Bible study will continue to take place Friday evenings via Zoom and Facebook Live.





THE SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST
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To sign up:
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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

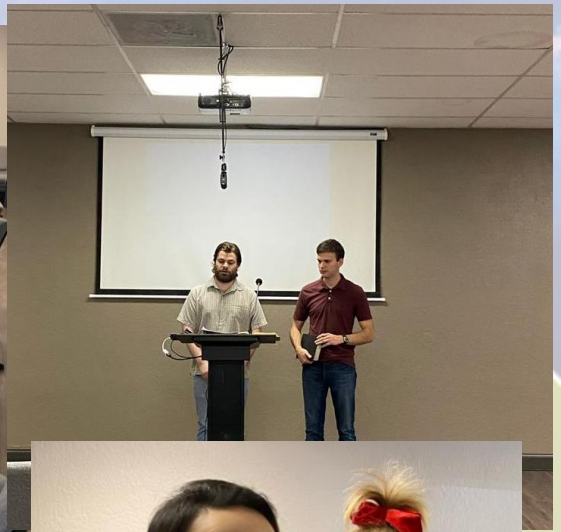
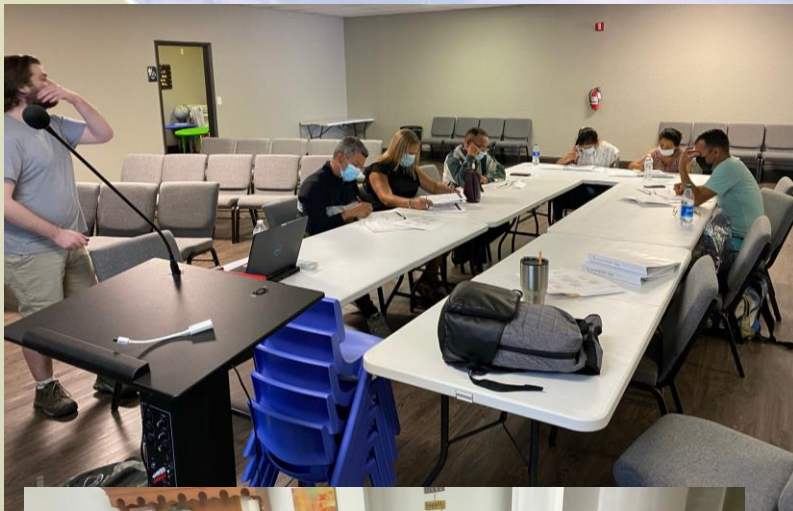
June 7-11 & 14-18
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Adult classes during the second week





LET'S START TALKING AND INTERN FROM HARDING UNIVERSITY

- William Robbins was our summer intern this summer. William is a fellow Bible and Missions graduate from Harding University (he graduated 1 year after Maikon, now in May 2021). He got here to Coconut Creek on Tuesday (May 25) and stayed with us through the end of June. He helped us with our LST students, VBSs, as well as other church activities.
- Maikon kept the basic LST students and William taught the ones that are more advanced and conversational.
- While he was here, William also taught the group class on Saturday mornings. The class on Saturday has been really nice and we're having an average of 6 students every week.
- We did some more advertising before William arrived and we were also able to add four new students for June and that was very exciting. One of these students is called Julio and his wife and daughters are members of the church. Julio hasn't been baptized yet and we're happy and prayerful that he will soon make the decision to give his life to the Lord.
- On his last Sunday with us (June 27) William preached for us at church. He did a really good job!



docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LWynXYRez1f70PkZrMzYkdKQpbsLFhB-eraiz50sc0/ed

Schedule William: June 2021

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BIBLE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE

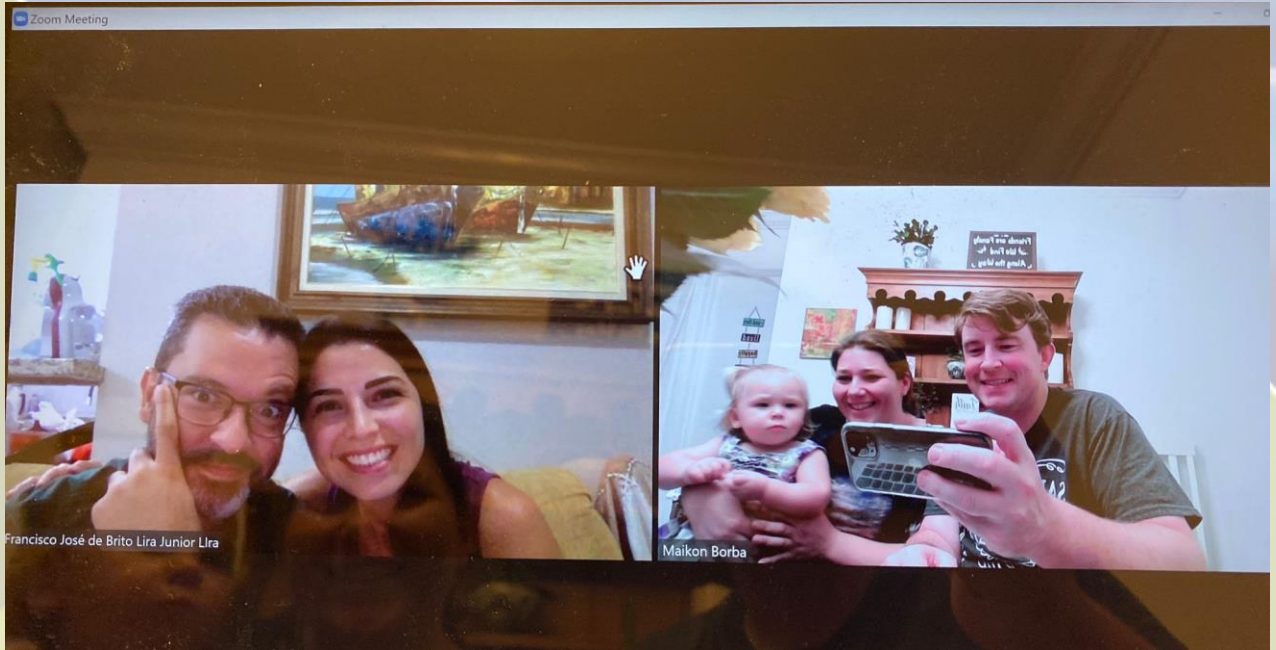
- We are now halfway through with our study of the book of Acts.
- We had to cancel our Bible study in Portuguese for two Thursdays in June during the VBS weeks. Apart from those two weeks, we have met faithfully every Thursday.
- Julio (one of the new LST students) has attended our Bible study in Portuguese once. He is originally from Venezuela but since he has many Brazilian friends, he wants to learn a little Portuguese as well.
- We continue to have great participation from brothers and sisters in Brazil. We're happy that while we slowly start our work here in South Florida we're also being used by God to touch and encourage the brethren in Brazil.

- Due to the fact that we are out of status now, we have not been able to use our work fund. This means that we can't provide the meal for our supper before the Bible study every Thursday. To solve this problem, we have talked to all the participants and we have been taking turns bringing the meal every week. We're also trying to stay under the radar as much as possible while we are in this situation. We want to avoid any unnecessary attention from USCIS so we have not been as active in social media as we used to. We have not been streaming the Bible study in Portuguese on Facebook Live and we're only doing it on Zoom.



TEAM FORMATION

- In our latest report we informed you about Benjamin and Jill Nicholas, who came here on a survey trip in March. They were interested in joining the Hispanic work with the church in Coral Springs. We have had several follow-up meetings with them but sadly, due to reasons that we all saw best for both our team and the Nicholas family, we have decided to not join together at this moment. We hope this is the best decision and we pray that the Lord will be able to use the Nicholas wherever He leads them.
- On a good note now, we continue to make great progress in our conversations with the Lira family from Brasilia, Brazil. Junior and Patricia Lira will be sponsored by the College CoC in Searcy, AR. The Liras have been developing their relationships and plans with their sponsoring church and that's very exciting. We've have had several meetings with the Liras and we do feel like this could really work since we seem to like each other a lot. It's hard to explain but we have felt at peace with them and this gives us assurance that God is behind this. They are planning to come to the US in October for meetings with their supporting churches and also to do a survey trip here with us in South Florida. Lord willing, if everything goes as planned, they should be able to move here permanently and join us in our Brazilian work some time in 2022. We are really excited!!



VISITS FROM FRIENDS

- On Sunday (May 24) the Diles came to see us at church. Professor Allen Diles was one of Maikon's mission professors at Harding University. His wife, Laurie, is also a professor at the university. Laurie is the daughter of Howard and Jane Norton, who were missionaries to Brazil in the 60s and 70s. They are a special family to us and we were so encouraged by their visit. We also loved meeting their son, Andrew, who lives not too far from us, in Hallandale Beach.
- In early June, the White family (from Daingerfield, Texas) came and spent a weekend with us. They were missionaries in our home state for many years. We've known them for a long time and have become really close friends with them. Their younger daughter, Barbara, just graduated from high school and they brought her to Universal Studios in Orlando as a graduation gift. We loved having them over with us for a few days! On Sunday (June 6) Mark preached for us at church and he brought a very powerful and encouraging message.



NEW VISAS

- As mentioned before, our work permits expired at the end of May. We are currently out of status while we wait for the new visas. We are allowed to stay in the US legally while we wait but we are no longer able to be employed nor drive (our drivers licenses have also expired).
- As you know, we haven't stopped serving at church and evangelizing. However, while we're in this "limbo phase", we are trying to stay put as much as we can and not attract attention to us and cause immigration to be suspicious of anything. We are also trying to not receive church money (a salary) for as long as we can so we have developed the following plan:
 - ☐ We are living off of personal savings and some money that we had in our retirement account. This way, if we are audited for any reason, immigration will not find anything out of order. Our sponsoring church (The Village CoC) is paying our rent directly to our landlord which means there's no money being deposited into our personal account.
 - ☐ Unfortunately, we will run out of personal funds on July 20 and after that we will need to be fully supported again. The Village CoC will then send us money from their benevolence account.
 - ☐ We want to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to our sponsoring church and other supporters for seeing us through these hard times. We also appreciate so many of you who have sent additional support to help us! WE LOVE YOU ALL!
- We've had several developments in the past few months but still no visas!
 - ☐ In June, we got a letter from USCIS informing us that they needed Tati's fingerprints to be taken.
 - ☐ Because our case was filed in Arkansas, which is also where our sponsoring church is, the appointment was scheduled in a USCIS office in Fort Smith, Arkansas.
 - ☐ After much research and discussion, it was decided that the easiest and cheapest way to go on this trip would be flying (because we're out of status, our driver's licenses have expired and we're unable to drive).
 - ☐ The flight to Little Rock would have been really expensive. To help us, our sweet supporting family, the Esparzas from Fort Worth, hosted us in their home in Texas and drove us to Fort Smith for Tati's appointment. We got to spend a few days with them in Fort Worth and also visit with the dear Cubstead family in Dallas. It was an awesome opportunity to be with people that love us (we love them back too 😊) and have a little change of scenery during these stressful times.
- At the end of June we had two new updates on our case:

- Our sponsoring church (The Village CoC) was audited by immigration. This is a standard procedure for USCIS to do a site visit at a sponsoring church for the R1-R2 visas.
- Then, a few days later, I got an email from the USCIS agent (the same one that visited the church) informing us that she would be calling within an hour to interview me. According to her, this too is standard procedure. The interview went great! The officer was easygoing and kind and she didn't make me feel nervous or intimidated. At the end of the conversation, I asked her about how much longer she thought it would take for a final position and she said not much longer. She was impressed with the Village CoC and our work here and said that everything was in order. She should be sending her report to USCIS on the same day and we should be hearing from them soon! Amen!!
- Please continue to pray so that we will soon be able to share with y'all the so-anticipated good news of us having our new visas in hand!!

WAC2030950815

Jun 17, 2021

Case Was Updated To Show Fingerprints Were Taken

Last status change: 36 days ago

I-539

WAC2030950753

Apr 22, 2021

Response To USCIS' Request For Evidence Was Received

Last status change: 92 days ago

I-129



THE PANDEMIC

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to improve here in Broward County. More and more people are being vaccinated and restrictions are being lifted.
- In Brazil, the vaccination is still moving along slowly but most of our family members and close friends have received at least one dose of the vaccine.
- We have been hearing about the Delta variation and an increase in numbers of infected people and hospitalizations in many places in the USA. We pray you are all safe and healthy!!

BABY JOANNA

- Joanna is now 20.5 months (as of the end of June). She continues to grow both physically and intellectually. She's a healthy toddler.
- In June, after we came back from our trip to Texas & Arkansas, Joanna was diagnosed with a mild case of hand, foot and mouth disease. She recovered quickly but had to be quarantined for a few days because the disease is very contagious.
- She continues to love going to Bible class and playing with her friends at church. Some of her new favorites include: playing in the water, throwing tea parties for her baby dolls, coloring, and learning about letters and numbers.



MISCELLANEOUS:

- On June 19 we got to celebrate with Maikon's cousin Marcio, his 50th birthday. His wife and children threw him a surprise party at their home here in Deerfield Beach and it was super fun!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please continue to pray for the following:
 - Our work with the church here in Coral Springs.
 - Our LST students.
 - Our visas.
 - The Lira family and our team formation.
 - Our families in Brazil, especially Tati's grandma who is still sick (her situation remains the same and she hasn't improved much).



We thank you so much for being together with us in our adventure!
We love and appreciate your prayers and support!

Maikon, Tati and Joanna