Borbas' Report November & December 2021

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (M-IV)

Dear mission partners! How are you all doing?

Another year comes to an end and what a year this one was! It was our first full year in the mission field with lots of great moments and a few of not so good ones, but all along the way our Dear Father was constantly on our side! The last two months of 2021 were very intense – with many activities taking place – as you will see in this report.

BIBLE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE

- We continued with our study of the book of Acts. While the Liras were here with us we were able to resume meeting in person at the building while we were still also streaming it on Zoom.
- On December 23 we were able to conclude the study of Acts.
- In January we will be starting a new study on the Gospel of Mark. We will be transitioning into hosting the study in our homes and expect greater participation from the church community, LST students, and also neighborsfriends.



We continue to have great participation on Zoom also. On this day Junior and I met at the building while everyone else joined in online.

LET'S START TALKING

• Because of the holiday season, many of the students canceled most weeks of classes.

However, I was able to maintain a handful of the students specially during the first weeks of November and December.

• Now in January we will be doing another round of advertisement on social media for the individual classes. I will also be offering a group class at the church building on Thursday evenings, starting on January 27.

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WORK IN THE SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST, IN CORAL SPRINGS

 The bilingual services and Bible classes on Sundays continue to have great attendance and we believe that the changes that we implemented in the summer will be for good. The congregation in Coral Springs seem to be in a great moment of growth and also strengthening of its members.

- On the weekend of Dec 4-5 we had our very first family camp which took place at the Everglades Youth Camp in West Palm Beach (about 1 hour north from us). We had great attendance for our standards: 42 people!! It was time
 - for relaxation and fellowship but also some inspiring Bible studies. Josh and Cara Blackmer from the Palm Beach Lakes CoC were the speakers during the weekend and developed the theme "Rest in the Lord." We believe this was a very positive experience for everyone and the church will definitely want to repeat it every year.
- On December 19, following the worship service, we had a potluck together at a park in Coconut Creek. It was the congregation's end-of-the-year party. We ate lunch together, had a short devotional and also had a fun gift-swap activity among the families. In addition, we did a service project with the kids. Each kid was asked to bring old toys (in good condition) to participate in a toy-swap game. For each two toys that were brought, the kid could swap one. The idea was to intentionally have leftover toys which were then donated.
- One of our sweet church sisters, Ms. Erika Guzman, is battling thyroid cancer for several months now. In December she underwent a procedure in which she had to be isolated at home for 10 days. Several families from church went to her house and sang Christian hymns and carols to her. It was the least that we could do to cheer her up a little bit.
- Carmen, our Brazilian church sister who recently moved here from New Jersey, fell and broke her shoulder on December 26. Tati and I have been trying to help her as much as we can by visiting, cooking her meals and taking her to doctor's appointments.













THE LIRAS AND TEAM FORMATION

- The Liras are finally here in the USA! They stayed with us from Nov 30 to Dec 26. It was great getting to know each other better as we lived together in the same apartment for virtually one full month. We used this time to bond and strengthen our relationship.
 - While together we did mainly two things:
 - Junior and I worked on our project to present
 to our sponsoring and supporting churches.
 Unfortunately, due to the new surge of cases
 of Covid, we had to cancel our meeting in

January. The meeting has been postponed to February and will take place in Searcy, AR, instead.

 We showed them around the area so they could get to know the region and be familiar with their surroundings here. This also included looking at neighborhoods and potential housing for them.



- The Liras will spend the next couple of months visiting their supporting churches in Arkansas and Texas and are planning to move to south Florida in March.
- Early on during their stay with us they found out that Patricia is pregnant! What a huge blessing it is and we praise God for his amazing faithfulness. They have struggled with infertility for over thirteen years so this is indeed God's miracle! We are so very happy for them and excited to soon have a new member in our team!!
- On a sad note now, however, Junior's father passed away in Brazil in late December. He had been battling an aggressive kind of abdominal cancer.



You all know how much we have prayed for a team! We're so happy that the Liras are here!





NEW VISAS AND TRIP TO BRAZIL

• Tati's R2 paperwork finally came in on December 20!! What a great Christmas gift! We praise God for this blessing and say a massive thank you to all of you who have been praying so fervently for this!!

- Tati will now be able to renew her driver's license. The appointment at the DMV here in Pompano Beach is scheduled for February 2.
- We are so excited that now we will finally be able to go visit our family and friends in Brazil. It's been virtually 4 years since we last went to Brazil and you can only imagine how much we miss people there. We are also so eager for Joanna and our family to finally meet each other (the only person who has ever met Joanna was Tati's mom who came to the USA right after Joanna's birth). We are planning the trip for April.
- While we are in Brazil we will have to take the final step in our visa saga (yes, it's not over yet)! We will have to schedule an appointment in the American consulate in our state capital so that we can have the actual R1-R2 visas stamped in our passports. Without these we won't be be allowed to re-enter the USA.



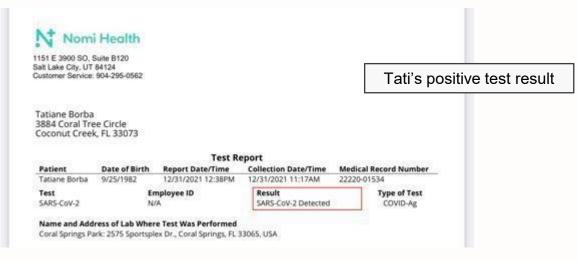
COVID-19

 By December everybody probably thought that we were finally getting to the end of the pandemic with low number of cases everywhere and restrictions being lifted in most places. However, the Omicron variant came

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along... We know God is still in control and He has a purpose with all of this. Let's keep praying!!

 On December 31, Tati tested positive for COVID. Maikon had already been having symptoms for a few days so when Tati tested positive it was clear that we both had it. We praise God that the two of us had relatively mild cases and recovered in less than 10 days.



HOLIDAY SEASON:

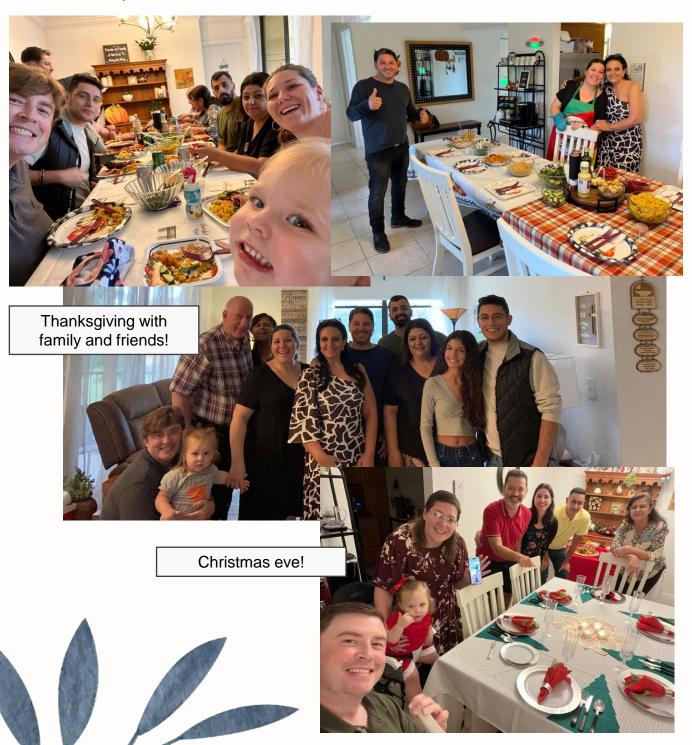
- We celebrated Thanksgiving Day in our apartment. Maikon's cousin and his family came over, and so did our sister in Christ Carmen and her husband Michael. We had a good time together and enjoyed some exquisite food. Tati cooked a full Thanksgiving meal and it was delicious!
- We hosted Christmas eve dinner also. It's a Brazilian tradition to celebrate Christmas eve with family and friends. The Liras were still here with us and Junior had a great idea. He said "let's invite some of the church members and LST students who will be alone during Christmas." We did it and our LST

student Cristiano and sister Carmen could come. We enjoyed each other's company and we gifted Cristiano (who is not yet a believer) with a bilingual Bible. Needless to say, Joanna loved opening her Christmas gifts.

- On December 25 we again did what has now become a family tradition. We had cake, balloons, and celebrated Jesus' birthday! Joanna loves singing happy birthday to Baby Jesus!
- The Clarins from Searcy, AR, came to visit us. They stayed with us from December 29 and were planning to leave on January 1.



 Unfortunately, because of us catching COVID, we didn't get to celebrate New Years and the Clarins ended up having to leave a day earlier.





TATI

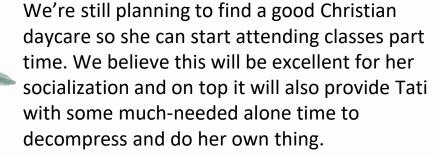
• Tati has been very active helping the other ladies in the church with Bible studies. On December 21 they had a ladies' Christmas party and it was a lot of fun. Patricia Lira was here and got to participate as well.

 Tati graduated from her certificate in Biblical Studies and Christian Ministry. These were online classes that she was taking at Harding University for the past 2,5 years. We are very happy and proud of her!!



JOANNA

- Joanna continues to grow and we remain extremely thankful to God for how healthy she is. While Tati and I caught COVID, she never did.
- She's more and more verbal and keeps on improving in her language skills.





MISCELLANEOUS:

In early November, we received great news from Brazil. Guilherme, Maikon's best friend, was baptized. The two of them have known each other since kindergarten. Guilherme has been living in

Florianópolis for over a decade now and had been studying the Bible with our missionary friend, Alex. In 2018, when we took a mission team from Harding University and worked with the church in Florianópolis, Guilherme was one of our LST students.

 In late November, Mark Dye and his family came to visit us. They are missionaries in São Luis, in the northeast of Brazil. Their son, Jude, underwent a few surgeries here in the Miami area.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please continue to pray for the following:
- ✓ Our work with the church here in South Florida.
- ✓ The COVID-19 pandemic and our hopes that it will soon go away.
- ✓ Our LST students.
- The Lira family: their move to south Florida in March and Patricia's pregnancy.
- Our team formation and our meeting with the sponsors in February.
- Our trip to Brazil which will likely take place in April.



We love you all and pray that the year of 2022 be filled with blessings and health to you and your loved ones!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR US!!

In Jesus,

The Borbas



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