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Janzen Field Update - Summer 2010

Greetings to all of our Partners in Mission, friends, and family!

Our Changed Situation

As the Canadian summer holiday season comes to a conclusion we find ourselves back in Canada. We have just returned from spending the last two years in service at the Ana Wollerman Baptist Theological Seminary (August 2008-August 2010). We are living temporarily in North Vancouver, BC where we are being graciously hosted by Jill's parents.

This is a time of transition for us. Over the next few months, up until the end of December 2010, we will be on home assignment. It will be an opportunity to rest a bit, reconnect with our family and friends, as well as refocus for the future. We are also looking forward to being able to share with the church communities and individuals who have been our Partners in Mission. As we see our time with CBM coming to an end, we are both thankful for the last 9 years spent serving God in Brazil and expectant as to what God has in store for us in Canada.

Our Challenging Return to Canada

We left Brazil in two phases. First, Doug brought Jill and the girls back to Canada at the end of May. Fortunately we had some much needed assistance from Doug's mother, Kathy Janzen, who came down for the months of April and May to help Jill get ready for that first return trip (mostly by keeping the girls occupied while Jill packed). We left Dourados by bus on May 27th heading for São Paulo. The trip went quite smoothly and Sarah, our cat, was very well behaved. We arrived in São Paulo the next morning, May 28th, and took another bus to the São Paulo international airport. After spending most of the day in the airport we checked our baggage in at 5pm and went through security to await our 8:30pm flight to Toronto. Upon arrival in Toronto we moved our six cart loads of baggage through customs, where the officials took a particular interest in Sarah, and deposited it all for our connecting flights (we went to Vancouver and Kathy went to Kelowna, BC). We were well received by family and friends who helped us get our luggage to North Vancouver where we are now residing with Jill's parents.

After a week Doug returned to Brazil in order to finish up the semester at the seminary leaving Jill and the girls to continue unpacking and getting settled. Along with completing his teaching commitments and fulfilling his administrative responsibilities as Vice-Director he was also preparing for his own final departure. That required making arrangements for the disposition of the mission vehicle (CBM generously gave it over to the seminary for ministry purposes at our request.), our household furniture and any other personal belongings which would not be making the trip to Canada. In spite of all of that we brought back there was an awful lot of stuff that had to stay behind and find a new home. Having taken care of all those matters, Doug returned to Canada at the beginning of August bringing another large load of baggage (only 3 cart loads this time). Although it was a logistical challenge, the trip went well.

Our Present Activities

And now we are together again as a family after two months apart. It is probably safe to say that Jill missed Doug's presence more as she was left caring for our three daughters on her own. The burden of responsibility, especially given Katie's particular needs, can wear heavily at times. It was particularly useful to be able to connect via Skype over these weeks. At times Katie would not want to eat breakfast without seeing Daddy on the computer first. There was also more than one occasion for discipline or fatherly chats with the other girls, or a need to share the challenges of the day. Thus, the distance was not felt quite as acutely as it might have been over those weeks.

Our Two Phase Return to Canada in Numbers

First trip (May 27-29):

- 6 people & 1 cat
- 19 pieces of 30kg baggage
- 5 carry-on bags & 6 personal items

Second trip (Aug. 01-03):

- 1 person
- 10 pieces of 30kg baggage
& 1 guitar
- 1 carry-on bag & 1 personal item

Itinerary (Time Frame for a Trip)

- 2 bus rides
 - Dourados to São Paulo (14 hours)
 - bus station to airport (1 hour)
- 2 flights
 - São Paulo to Toronto (10 hours)
 - Toronto to Vancouver (5 hours)
- time spent = 45 hours (one way)

We are presently taking care of many things that have been neglected over the last while. We purchased a vehicle so we would no longer have to inconvenience Jill's parents' by borrowing theirs all the time. Jill has been registering and preparing the girls for entering school in September along with organizing the medical, dental (of which Katie needs some significant work done) and eye appointments that need to be taken care of over the next few months. Doug finally found time to file our Income Tax Return (and we do get money back!) and to put together this ministry update (finally!).

The truth is that we do not yet know what we will be doing as of January 2011. Therefore, over the next few weeks Doug will be filling out the CBWC Ministry Information Profile and entering into contact with denominational leaders in order to explore the possibility of placement with one of our Canadian Baptist churches. Doug purposefully chose to wait until our return to Canada to begin to explore options because of the conviction that it was important to be wholly devoted to our ministry at the seminary and not divided in mind and heart. Although a certain amount of anxiety comes with the unknown, we are trusting in the leading and perfect timing of our God. In our return to Canada we are walking by faith and seeking to be confident of the future which we cannot yet see.

Our Reasons for Thankfulness

- We are thankful for the privilege of serving in Brazil for the last 9 years. We gave much of our youth and energy to this ministry project (that is not to say that we are planning to retire yet, by any means!). It was well worth it, in spite of all of the difficulties, challenges and moments of doubt and frustration. To know that you are involved in ministry that is contributing to the building up of the Kingdom of God, wherever and whatever that may be, is priceless. That is a gift that God gave to us and you helped to make possible.
- We are grateful for the wonderful people with whom we were able to live and minister. There is no space to name them here, but each one blessed us in their own way. We were one with them in the ministry we shared together. And now they carry on without us, but not without the presence of our Lord. Through Him we continue to be with them even though separated by distance and time.
- We are thankful for the riches of our family life experience in Brazil through the language, the food, the values and the culture as a whole. We were privileged to receive Katie into our family while in Dourados, so we have a Brazilian treasure that will always be part of our lives. Our world is far bigger now that we share a broader view on the world, a view seen through Brazilian eyes. We are better for also being Brazilian.
- In spite of all of Katie's particular health challenges, we were blessed with God's protection throughout our years in Brazil. We thank God for graciously protecting us from danger, disease, and destruction.
- We are full of gratitude to our God for His wonderful provision. Our Lord Jesus touched your hearts to give generously and sacrificially, in some cases, towards our ministry on your behalf. Over the years our financial support level as CBM missionaries has been very near to full. We see that as a true sign of God's care and faithfulness which He has shown us through you who have committed to investing in our lives and ministries.

Our Hopes for Our Partners

We thank you all for your intercession, letters and cards, gifts, and for all of the other ways in which you have invested in our lives and ministries. We are grateful for all of our Partners in Mission who have believed in what we were doing enough to provide generously towards our support. Just as you have invested in our lives over these years, we ask you to consider the possibility of continuing that support for another CBM missionary or missionary family in the future.

In the near future Eileen Moore-Crispin from CBM will contact you about transferring your support. Do give that possibility prayerful consideration or take the initiative to contact her yourself at 905-821-3533 (telephone) or by email eileenm@cbmin.org.

We will remain your missionaries until December 2010 so please continue your support until then, if that is possible. We intend to continue sharing with a few more letters (with a few more pictures than this one) sharing more specifically what God has done through our ministry together. Hopefully we will see you soon through a deputation visit. May our Lord and God abundantly bless you with His riches and the assurance of His presence and love!

Yours in His service,

Doug, Jill, Devorah, Anneken, and Katrina