

Janzen Family Update

January 2009

Dear family and friends,

Belated Happy New Year! We have been back in Brazil for 5 months and are definitely readjusted and back into our old routines. Doug has enjoyed getting back into teaching after having been away for a



year in Canada. He has had fewer classes to teach this past term since both the Christian Education and Sacred Music programs are no longer running here at the seminary. The slower pace has been nice for our family. In mid-December we said goodbye to a large (by our standards) graduating class of 29 students. Doug made an encouraging speech at the graduation dinner. We were sad to say goodbye to some good friends of ours as they moved back to where they were originally from, but we look forward to a new group of 30+ students starting in February. Doug was also appointed interim vice-director of the seminary when the

vice-director and his wife left in August. The role has been more emotionally draining than teaching as he has been trying to deal not only with administrative details but also various relational and moral issues that have surfaced. However, he is enjoying the challenge.

The girls went back to their old Brazilian school at the end of July. Devorah jumped ahead to the middle of Grade 5 here and Annie went back to the middle of grade 2. Thankfully they had not been forgotten

during our year away and were warmly welcomed back by friends, teachers, and staff. School proved to be a bit difficult as the girls had forgotten their Portuguese while in Canada.

Dev recovered hers rather quickly but Annie did not. She struggled the whole term with Portuguese and with the more advanced math that was being taught here. Devorah managed to pass Grade 5 but Annie had to do summer school as she ended up failing both math and Portuguese. She passed math in summer school (by a hair, I think) but not Portuguese. However, she was "passed" by her teacher who felt that she had been at a disadvantage coming halfway through the school year. In order to avoid similar difficulties next year we have decided to try homeschooling the girls.



This will be new territory for us and we would appreciate your prayers. In other news, the girls have been back at art school which is one of their most favourite things to do. Devorah was also part of the worship/dance team at the fall conference for children and youth here at the seminary, and she has recently shown a lot of interest in learning how to bake and cook. She and her friends like to get together and make everything from jello, to cheeseballs, to brigadeiros – and even pizza! Annie is still

interested in her dolls but has (in her words) outgrown the “Barbie phase” and now has an ever expanding collection of Polly’s.

Thank you to all who have been praying for Katie. She had a rocky transition back to Brazil as she got a urinary tract infection within a week of our arrival and then two more in August and September. We



consulted with her doctor here and her urologist in Canada and decided to put her back on daily antibiotics. Since September she has had only one infection. Every day we give Katie cranberry and blueberry extract to try and keep her bladder healthy and we have recently started her on D-mannose which is supposed to be very good for preventing bladder infections as well. We also give her daily doses of acidophilus, garlic oil, ginkgo biloba, fish oil, and goat protein to try and boost her overall health and resistance. If any of you are aware of other home treatments or natural remedies we could use to keep her bladder healthy we would appreciate hearing from you. We are ready to try just about anything. On a more positive note, Katie has made some good progress this past fall on her pre-reading skills. She knows most of the letter sounds now and is learning to

identify what letter a word starts with just by hearing the word. I have tried to get her to sound out simple words but so far she hasn’t shown much interest. However, I hope with time and patience she’ll get the idea. She is also learning to dress and bathe herself. Lots more practice needed in those areas but we’ve made a start!

Our family recently went on a short trip to Campo Grande, our state capital, and had a nice time shopping in the big mall there as well as swimming in the hotel pool. The air compressor in our car konked out while we were there which meant we had to stay an extra day and half while the car was in the shop. The girls didn’t mind at all. They loved the opportunity to eat more MacDonald’s fries (especially Katie!) and Subway sandwiches. Shortly after our return to Dourados, we celebrated Devorah’s 11th birthday with lots of friends and cake and ice cream.

We appreciate you thinking of us and praying for us and would ask that you continue to pray, especially for Katie’s health and that of our entire family. We have had a lot of illnesses this past fall – mostly recurring colds, sinus infections, and mystery fevers that made life a bit stressful - and to think we

survived the winter in Canada last year with barely any illnesses at all! It is so encouraging to know that we are in your thoughts and prayers.



I am including one last photo here of a tree that I love and that has recently been blooming everywhere around Dourados. The tree is called “flamboyant” - you can see why, I’m sure!

Love from,
Jill, Doug, Devorah, Anneken, and Katrina