

Monthly Newsletter

RUSSELL FAMILY

◆
March, 2024



Here's what's happened in the last month and what's to come!

Moving from California to Manaus, the largest city in the Amazon

We had planned on moving into a certain apartment, but upon arrival we found the conditions much worse than anticipated and the owner was unamenable, so we asked around and a friend we had made advised us of another apartment for rent, that was cheaper, was in a better location, and with more wind to cool us down during the daytime! We have been very blessed to move into the apartment and furnish it with the money we gained from selling our things in California. The owner of the apartment is a very nice man who is a colonel in the Brazilian air force. We have settled in and have all we need here now, thankfully.

MCM Partnership

We have been blessed to get to know the team of local missionaries of Missao Crista Mundial, MCM (World Christian Mission). We also have been blessed to meet the founder of MCM, Pastor Jose, an 80+ year old servant of Jesus who is a wealthy doctor who has dedicated his life to missions.

Finding a school for our kids

We were expecting to put our kids in a private Portuguese-speaking Christian school because the International schools were at least 3 times more expensive. However, when we went to the school we were planning to put them in, they had no space for Lis—her class was full. So, we sought God's direction, and considered homeschooling our kids again. Then, a missionary reached out to Grace and encouraged her to go to the Amazon English Academy, because the school was founded by missionaries and they had given her children a substantial discount. So we prayed and went there, expecting nothing but God's will for us to be revealed. After chatting with them about our situation as new missionaries to Manaus, they did some calculations and offered us an 80% discount. In the end, the English speaking school was cheaper than the Portuguese speaking school! Glory to God who leads us in his will and provides for us along the way! Our kids could not be happier! God led us to an English speaking school with Christian values and gave it to us at an incredible price!

Family life

The biggest changes for our family here are living in a different country with a different language, hot and humid weather, and Lis and Levi no longer being homeschooled, leaving Lucas to have more one on one time with mom and dad. Daniel's vocabulary has improved rapidly since arriving here. We also enjoy our condominium complex with nearly 6,000 residents.

Our health

Daniel and the kids got sick in our second week here. But now we are all in good health, thank God. We haven't secured private health insurance yet, though we all have full access to Brazil's public health care if needed.

Vehicle

We haven't officially purchased a vehicle yet. We've been using a vehicle which a member of our church has let us use for the last 2 weeks. We are considering purchasing it because it's under market value, though it's a small hatchback. It fits our family, but it's a bit tight.



Daniel's 1st Local Missions Trip to the impoverished river folks

Daniel went to the isle of Caapiranga with Pastors Fabio and Regina to get to know the community, evangelize them and continue construction on a missionary base there. It was a short trip and the one full day they were there, it rained hard all morning, which made construction impossible on the base. So, instead, they did work on a local missionary's home named Rosa, who is a blessing to the community. She provides for anyone's needs who knocks on her door, whether they need food or pain medicine. She is a widow who lives there alone and once had to kill a cobra that landed in her kitchen during heavy rain. She's sweet and tough!

Daniel preaching at Mount Zion Church's Men's Gathering

Daniel preached at Mount Zion Church's Men's Gathering about how God uses ordinary circumstances to shape us in the image of God—to make us live and love like Jesus. Grace translated. It was a blessing, and an honor. Since that time we have been closer to Pastors Fabio and Regina who pastor the church.



Our local church in Manaus

After visiting some local churches, we felt called by God to be part of the Baptist Resurrection Church. Grace met the main pastor last year when she went to the community they assist (Park of the Indigenous Nations) to evaluate the children with Casa Nutri. They are known as Igreja Amarela or "Yellow Church" because it meets in a yellow church building. They are very active in the community and do a lot of midweek ministry. We are getting involved with their ministries and Daniel received an invitation to become a pastor there, launching an English service on Sundays, right before the main service.



Visiting the Park of the Indigenous Nations

Our family visited the Park of the Indigenous Nations, a slum community comprised of indigenous ethnic groups, with Pastor, Osenildo, to see the community, show Jesus's love to the poor, and to catch the vision for ongoing projects.



Family Devotionals

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

From the time we left the U.S. to today, we have encountered varying degrees of spiritual warfare. Thankfully, we are developing healthy routines as a family, and our most essential and life-giving routine is having regular family devotions. They are very refreshing, encouraging, and cement God's word as the foundation of our lives as we practice the "seek God's kingdom first" principle of Matthew 6:33. Let's seek God's kingdom first as whole families! There's nothing more life-giving than for the head of the home to lead his family in worship, the word of God, and prayer.

Prayer Requests

1. Reaching the unreached — successful ministry to the tribes
2. Unity — as a family, with our fellow missionaries, and with everyone we are called to serve alongside
3. Support — we need regular monthly support to sustain our missions
4. Celso, our handyman, was far from God when we met him. He said he saw the light of Jesus in our eyes. He is on his way back, but needs to fully recommit. Pray for his full surrender. We received his brother and sister-in-law in our home, who are solid disciples, together with him last week for a time of fellowship, worship and prayer.

Satere Mawe trip

Pray for us as we prepare to go to the Satere Mawe tribe in Mid-April. To go as a whole family will cost us at least \$400 because of the 4 days of travel by boat (2 days to get there and 2 days to come back), a couple nights in cheap accommodations and food.

We are seeking God's direction whether we should all go or only Grace or Daniel should go, and the other one stays home with the kids.

We also would love to be able to bless the local MCM missionaries who are struggling to raise their monthly support for their travels.



<p>To support us from the U.S.: go to donorbox.org/im_donations Select Brazil Missionaries (Daniel and Grace)</p>	<p>**New Instagram Page: inspiredmissions_inspirebrazil</p>
<p>To support us from Brazil: PIX 625.317.353-72 Gracielle de Oliveira Freire Russell</p>	<p>Facebook: InspireBrazil</p>

Thank you for reading!
