

News from Mike and Diane!

January 5, 2012

Yesterday morning, Mike had an interesting morning taking an adult MK (missionary kid) around to update his Brazilian documents, including getting an exemption from serving in the Brazilian army. David was wearing shorts and flip flops which were not acceptable when they got to one of the government offices. Mike thought, "Well, we could swap pants." Since he had long pants on, but someone nearby said, "There is a lady out front that rents pants." So sure enough, they found her outside and for less than \$2.00, they were able to rent a pair of pants. They were actually way too big for David but she also had a piece of twine, (for free!!!).

In the middle of their running around, the taxis in Manaus started a protest and blocked off the entire downtown area. So they had to park the car and go by foot. You never know what is going to happen from one day to the next here!

I recently got a letter from a missionary friend in Boa Vista, (where we worked for 21 years). She, like me, had found the holidays to be very hard, as had a number of other women we work with. Very hard to be away from loved ones and celebrate Christmas in a different culture. We know that it will be worth it all when we get to heaven, but sometimes here on earth; we are

weak and long for our loved ones.

The receptionist here at the mission, Dilma, has a ministry she does after hours. She and a couple of other people go to a children's hospital to tell the children



Bible stories and sing songs. She also gives out little goody bags to cheer them up.

Most of the things are donated. We have joined her team, and since none of them drive, having a car is a big help. We usually use the Wordless Book. Yesterday, I got to share the Gospel with the mothers whose infants are in the neonatal unit. We will probably never know the fruit this ministry has, as we only have this brief contact with them, but we believe it is something the Lord has led us to participate in. Here are some pictures I took last time.

We appreciate your prayers for Nei and Katia. We praise the Lord for the work He has done in their hearts and marriage. They are doing a lot better and recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. They will still have rough spots ahead surely, but we continue to pray for more and more Spirit controlled lives.



We just realized as I was writing this that today is the 30 year anniversary of our arrival in Brazil. It doesn't say much about us, but it says a lot about God's faithfulness. He has provided for our family and taken care of us all these years. We just want to thank and praise Him. Thanks to all of you who have been used by the Lord to pray for us and support us so faithfully and generously. We pray He will bless you abundantly!!!

A blessed New Year to you and your loved ones,

Mike and Diane Hartman

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