

August 30, 2006

Praise God for how he works in our lives! He is good even when the road seem incredibly rough. He has been working in my life during my transition to life here in Sorocaba. Each new term brings with it different insights into the term "Culture Shock". Veteran missionaries like me (though most of the time I still feel like a rookie) should be ready for almost any and everything that the culture has to throw my way. But, I still get hammered at times. I praise God at how he uses little things to reveal areas in my life that need work.

Patience is one of those areas!!!!!! I NEVER pray for Patience! And I shudder when a well-intentioned person tells me that they are praying that I might have patience!

My bank account was blocked the other day, because I entered the wrong password more than three times. To unblock it one needs to go to the bank where ones account is (that's bad English but... you get the drift). So, I went to the bank (a 20 minute trip). As I stood in line, waiting to talk to a teller, a nice young lady asked if she could help me. Since she was wearing banker's garb I related my story of a blocked account to her. She kindly took my bankcard and checked my account. Upon return she told me that it was OK to use now. Being the veteran that I am, I asked her if I would be able to use the account "**right now?**" (Emphasis added). She took my card again and went to her computer. When she returned she assured me that I would. "Will I be able to get checks from the 'checkbook' machine?" "O yes, no problem." With those kind, and helpful words I headed toward the "checkbook machine." "Excuse me" she said, "that machine is out of order at the moment but if you go to one of our other branches, you'll be able to use their machine."

After my 20 trip to the nearest Other branch, I entered and waited in line to use the "checkbook machine". As I stepped up to it with confidence and entered my password, the words, "*We're sorry, but your account is BLOCKED. Please go to the agency where you have your account to rectify this problem. Bradesco (the bank name) thanks you!*" smacked my patience button!!!!!! Life in Brazil... you gotta love it!

Thank you Father, for how you work in my life.

Some quick **prayer requests** for your consideration:

Ann and Jackson are back at College and God is helping them with the transition by giving them some good friends. **Praise** the Lord for this blessing. Pray for Jack as he studies and ministers. **Pray** for Ann as she looks for a job. She has also been having some health issues (her system is fighting some type of allergy). **Pray** for a doctor who will be able to help her with these.

Pray for Cristiane. We were able to lead her to Christ a couple of years ago. However, she has recently met and has started dating an unsaved man. Davi and I talked with her and her boyfriend for a couple of hours last night. **Pray** for her and us as we help her to do the right thing.

Continue to pray for God's direction with regard to housing. We've yet to find a house.

We got a tremendous estimate on a construction project that will help with the appearance of our church. **Pray** for God's direction and His protection in the use of the money we've set aside to accomplish this project. **Pray** too for the congregation who will be helping pay for half of another project (plastering the auditorium). This will be a great help to us and a blessing to them if they can raise the \$1000 needed.

Pray for our team as we face some heavy transitions in the near future. With Ben and Dani on furlough, Shawn and Donna in the States waiting to complete the adoption of a Chinese baby, and Ed and Jan assuming responsibilities at our Bible College in Curitiba (6 hours south of us) in the next few months, there are a lot of changes ahead. **Pray** for God's wisdom and continued direction for all of us.

Pray for Ben and Dani as they seek the needed support to return in June. **Pray** too for Dani as she begins language training.

Pray for God to open doors as we sow the seed of the Gospel in our neighborhood. Davi and I made some good contacts last week. **Pray** for God's desired results from those contacts.

Mike