

Jonathan, Beth &  
Miriam TODD

MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL



## Merry Christmas from the Todds!

### On Being Fed

Our last blog entry (which you can find at [www.jbtodd.org](http://www.jbtodd.org)) was about a few recipes we have come to enjoy during our first few months in Brazil. Jonathan and I are serious food people. I blame it on my wonderful cook of a mother from Georgia. Jonathan only likes two kinds of pie – hot and cold. In fact, I find that our Portuguese vocabulary grows faster in food words than in others. We are still trying to learn all the names of fruits here, many of which we have never seen before. We are relearning how to feed ourselves in a place that doesn't have the same ingredients as those we are used to.

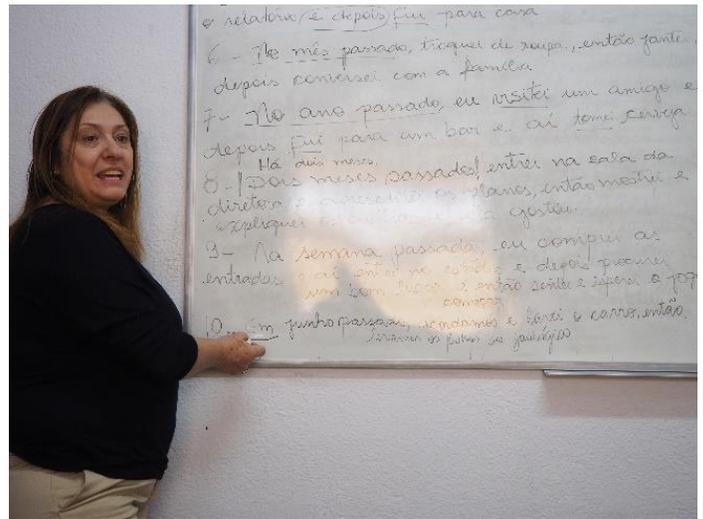
Thankfully, we are in no danger of going hungry. Brazilians appreciate their food as much as we do. And they are more than ready to share. So far, we've

been given a banana and part of a fruit salad at the Federal Police station, a partial bag of chips made from manioc on the bus to São Paulo, part of a box of popcorn on the way back, all the kiwi in our language teacher's fruit salad (for Miriam), and part of a stuffed potato pancake at the Hippy Faire (because Miriam was eyeing it). Although everything is new to us, we are still being fed. God is funny like that. He knows what food you need even before you ask. Jonathan, Miriam, and I will be spending our first Thanksgiving and Christmas abroad. We definitely will hunger for our favorite holiday foods (like my mama's sweet potatoes, which we can't find here!). But more than that, we will hunger for our family and our loved ones back home. God knows, and we will still be fed. A couple in the church we attend has invited us to spend Christmas with them. It will be different, with new ingredients, but we count it as a blessing.

Thanksgiving and Christmas is a time for reflection as we celebrate and bring the year to a close. Search for the ways God is feeding you. It's easy to overlook, but He does give us our daily bread. Sometimes it's as simple as sharing a favorite family recipe. But always, it is food for your soul. When you see it, give thanks! Our Father is oh so good and always provides for His children, even if it is in new and different ways.

### Language School Update

We (Jonathan and Beth) are currently attending language school Monday-Friday in the mornings. Maria (pictured above) is one of our two language teachers. Being able to speak the language of the person to whom you are ministering is vital. It is essential that we learn Portuguese well



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in order to teach well. We would truly appreciate your prayers regarding this.

There is something very humbling about beginning from scratch with a new language. We feel very much like babies in our level of communication. (Thanks be to God that Brazilians are patient and friendly with us!) Every day is an adventure in trying to figure out what we want to say and then how to say it. For example, the other day I, Beth, tried to say, "I hope I don't mess this up." After much searching in a dictionary, I realized that I have no idea how to rephrase that into a word that is not an idiom or slang. Sometimes learning another language is like mental gymnastics.



During the time we attend language school, Miriam attends a school for children under the age of six. Miriam's school is entirely in Portuguese, and she is making many friends. She is learning Portuguese quickly! The way we discover that she knows a new word is that we will say something in Portuguese that we haven't taught her and she'll start using it immediately, without practice, and

with proper toddler pronunciation! So, in reality, we have no idea how much Portuguese she already knows because she only uses it when we do. Soon, she will be teaching us!

## Ministry Updates

On the weekend of October 15, we traveled to São Paulo to attend the regional convention of the Church of God, hosted by the Três Corações congregation. They recently completed a new building (top right). The convention was a time for all of the local pastors and many lay leaders and members to get together for sharing and worship. The speakers were Oreste and Marlene Greiner (pictured to the right) from Itaituba, which is the city in the north where we will be serving after language school.



Oreste and Marelene recently went on a mission trip to Mozambique, a Portuguese-speaking country in Africa. The Greiners spent more than two weeks teaching leadership classes. We are excited because this trip was one of the first steps in encouraging young men and women in the Brazilian church to listen for the call of God to serve in international missions. How wonderful is that!



## Thank You

We want to thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. Without them, we would not be here. God is active and moving in the Church of God in Brazil. You are a part of that! We pray that you are blessed by it, just as you have blessed us!

As budgets change, we continue to look for additional ministry partners, either churches or individuals, to support us financially. For more information, contact Debbie Taylor in the Global Strategy office at [DTaylor@chog.org](mailto:DTaylor@chog.org) or 800-848-2464, ext. 2129. Our project is #42.10039. Or visit <http://choglobal.org/living-link-donations/#todd> to give online.



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