



love letters

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A Tale of Two Daughters

This is a story of reclamation. A story of purpose. And of hope.

It is the story of two young women who know a Father's love can sustain them in the midst of devastating loss and point them toward eternal gain.

Many in the Orphanos family have already met these two women at Lar Batista Biblico.

So this story is also an official congratulation from all of us to Marta Fragoso and Priscila Brito—by the middle of this month, both will be among the 2% of young people in Brazil fortunate enough to have completed a college education. It is a praise story to the God who loves them. And it is a thank you to the anonymous couple who sponsored them in their studies.

Marta's Journey

January 27, 1978. A beautiful young woman, Socorro Silva, has arrived in Assis Chateaubriand, Paraná, Brazil, having been called to serve in the ministry of a growing children's home, Lar Batista Biblico. She is overwhelmed by the love Joaquim and Thereza Fragoso have for the many children under their care, including their youngest natural child, Marta Fragoso, age 1. Socorro, whose name literally means, "help," is honored to assist the Fragosos in their work. Little does she know, God will call her to share the burden of Lar in an even more significant way.

August 15, 1980. Marta is now 4 and already exhibiting a friendly, outgoing nature. But even Marta is eerily silent on this day. Thereza has died in the night of a mysterious illness, leaving Marta and her five siblings behind, along with a home full of children who call her mother. Joaquim is a single father... with more than four dozen children.

God, however, is still on His throne. Three years after Thereza's death, God calls Joaquim and Socorro into a covenant marriage, and a joint parenting task that will continue the rest of their lives.

Growing up in a family with so many needs is not easy, but Marta now has a father and a mother to shelter and guide her. As she grows, she matures naturally into the role of entertainer, storyteller and tour guide. It is not surprising that her dream after graduating from high school is

to work in a large hotel. She has no prospects for continuing her education, but prays for an open door for employment.

March 2000. It looks as if 22-year-old Marta's dream is coming true. After numerous applications, she has been called for a receptionist position at a prestigious international hotel in Foz de Iguassu. Without a formal education, she will likely have to content herself with receptionist or clerical work indefinitely, but at least she is in her desired field. She packs her belongings, takes the bus, and reports for duty.

Meanwhile, Pai has been praying for his daughter and believes God has clearly told him He has something else in store for Marta. "I'm sorry," the girl at the front desk tells her when she arrives for her dream job. "Your father has called, and he wants you to go back home."

Marta reluctantly obeys. Through April and May, she mourns the seeming loss of opportunity while continuing her responsibilities at Lar.

God, however, is still on His throne.

In June of 2000, while working with a U.S.-led short-term mission team, Marta is surprised by hope. A team member has singled her out and asked if he and his wife can sponsor her education.

She attends a year of preparatory school and four years of training in one of the nation's best tourism schools, the School of Tourism, Resort and Hotel Management at the Universidade Cesumar in the city of Maringá. During this time, she develops friendships she believes will be life-long, convinces many students to attend church with her, and makes numerous trips back to Lar, bringing friends to help in the work of the children's home.

January 27, 2005. It is 27 years to the day since Socorro came to Lar Batista. And it is the day Marta Fragoso graduates, cum laude, from Universidade Cesumar. Marta is asked to speak at the evening ceremonies. Because several of the students have lost their mothers, she invites Socorro to the stage, explaining that God uses whom He will to care for His children, and that He never abandons His own.

Marta gives her mother a beautiful bouquet.



Socorro (Mae), Marta, and Joaquim (Pai) Fragoso



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Orphanos Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) ministry based in Cordova, Tennessee.

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Her parents give her a graduation ring they have saved for years to supply. It is the passing of a baton in Brazilian culture. It is the beginning of a new story that God has written, and Marta has yet to read.

Priscila's Journey

Most of us are familiar with Cinderella, a fairytale in which a father marries an evil woman who treats her own daughters like queens and relegates her stepdaughter to maid service.

It is not a fairytale to Priscila Brito.

It is 1987. Priscila is 9 years old, uneducated and unwanted. She is deposited at Lar Batista by a father who has rejected her in favor of his new wife and children. "This one," the father tells Joaquim, "won't ever amount to anything." These are the last words Priscila hears her natural father say.

Joaquim's heart is broken for the little girl. He knows the power of a parent's words. But he also knows the power of His Father's words.

"That was your old life," he tells Priscila. "This is your new life. And God has big plans for you."

It is difficult at first. Because she has been kept at home to labor, Priscila is several years behind her peers in school. But she is a hard worker. Over time, she catches up, and proves that she has more than enough drive and ability to pursue her dream of becoming a journalist.

Still, a girl with no connections and no financial resources has no hope of going to college.

God, however, is still on His throne.

With the help of a sponsor, Priscila is able to attend preparatory school and go on to college. Her tenacity in the face of a highly demanding schedule is evidence of her determination to succeed. Every school day, she gets up early to do her share of work at Lar, and then rides the bus an hour and a half (each way) to attend night school, arriving back home at 1:30 a.m.

On February 11, 2005, Priscila "Cinderella" Brito will graduate from college. She will wear a beautiful gown, and she will hold her head high when her name is announced.

Ask Priscila and she will tell you that God's words are more powerful than man's, for He says in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

This fairytale is real.

And where is the handsome prince, the hero of Priscila's story? He is the valiant rider on the white horse in the book of Revelation... Jesus Christ Himself.



Priscila Brito

A Note About Sponsorship...

A little support and encouragement can change the life of a child at Lar Batista Biblico.

Orphanos offers donors the option of sponsoring a young child with a monthly gift and letters of encouragement, or sponsoring older children in their education—equipping them to serve the Lord in whatever capacity He has called them to.

Either way, sponsors have the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with a child God is determined to bless—and, of course, God blesses the sponsors as well, as they are used in ministering His grace.

A big thanks to those who already serve as sponsors. Only in heaven will you fully realize all the ways in which God is using you to fulfill His plans to provide a future and a hope to His children.

Please Continue Praying...

Please keep Marta and Priscila in your prayers, as they strive to please God in their new lives.

And please remember our missing children—Andressa, Renata, Eduarda and Marcos. Hope of finding them is scant. God, however, is still on His throne. He knows the plans He has for these dear members of the Orphanos family.



clockwise from top left:
The missing children: Andressa,
Renata, Marcos, and Eduarda