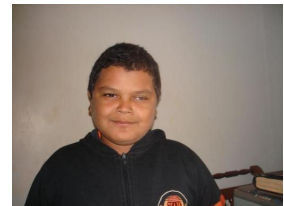


May 6th 2009

For with God, all things are possible! At Lar Batista this has been the one of the basic principles for everyone, big or small! Sometimes the needs are small, such as an eraser to take to school, a pair of shoes... even a bicycle. Our children over the years have also learned to pray for big needs, things that only God could do, never doubting His power... always trusting His goodness.

I remember being one of the children praying for things that for me seemed insurmountable and I also remember looking back in Praise and awe, as the Lord came through to us, yet one more time. Sometimes His answer is WAIT. Some other times No, but we know for a fact that God answers prayers.

If you have been to Lar Batista in the last 3 years, there is no possible way you missed Joao Paulo and his very captivating personality. Joao Paulo had suffered all kinds of abuse before he came to our home. We received a very rebel 6 year old who weighed over 100 pounds due to wrong dosage of steroids, in addition to having been blinded by a stepmother who dropped super glue in his eye and eventually blinded him.



When Joao came to know the Lord he started to ask if Jesus could make him see again. Again the truth of the Word became a prayer request to all of us at our house and those who came to visit Lar. "Lord, if there is anything that can be done for this child to see, please, lead us to that!" we prayed. At the time Pai was going through his series of battles with his eye problems, having many surgeries and seeing the Lord come through. We began to believe there had to be hope for Joao Paulo.

In the meantime, Joao Paulo's favorite song has become "OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART , LORD" and seeing a blind child sing that song was one of the most moving moments of my time at Lar.

Well, the Lord is at work and Mae and Pai and Marcia did everything they could to place Joao Paulo in a waiting list for a cornea transplant. He has been on that list since June 2008 and every time I asked him how he was, he would tell me: "Things are fine, but nobody is dying, so I cannot have a cornea. I don't want them to die, but I need a cornea!" In the mind of this child all he could ever want was to see again, to not be made fun at school because he had an ugly eye, but most importantly, Joao Paulo learned to pray and to have faith that God would provide for him, even though he was asking for such a specific thing.

May 1 was a holiday in Brasil and a team from Sao Paulo came to be with the family at Lar. A gentleman on the team gave Joao Paulo some money, 10 Reais. He was very happy; especially when he was told he was supposed to go get some candy with it. Without any prompting from anyone, Joao Paulo asked the gentleman if he could exchange his 10 Reais bill for some smaller bills. The person asked him if he was about to go spend all his money and he was quiet and

thoughtful. Then he looked at the donor of his recent obtained bill and said: “Sir, of course I am not ready to go spend all my money! First I need to give God what is God’s. I must tithe! That’s why I need some smaller bills!” The gentleman had tears in his eyes and said: “I knew God would speak to me in this place, but I never thought I would get a slap on the wrist by a 9 year old whose faith is bigger than mine.” Joao Paulo did not wait to believe when he grew up. He is an example of what it means to have a faith like a child.

Joao Paulo put God in first place and never doubted that he was to be faithful, even in small things. I am very glad to share with you that God has blessed Joao Paulo in a very special way today!

Mae got a phone call from the eye Institute and they have found a cornea for Joao Paulo! She was so happy and could barely get her words out! She said she had been praying so much for this because of Joao Paulo’s faith! He has already seen God meet his needs in small ways. He has learned that God can open the eyes of his heart and take away the anger and resentment and he was ready to see God come through and open his physical eyes so that he will be a living testimony of the God who met him in his needs and took care of every one of them! As soon as he heard the news he was so happy and thankful that he asked Mae to wait because he had to run to the chapel and thank God for such a blessing!

Joao Paulo has a day long process on May 7th which happens to be the national day of Prayer! May I ask you to include this little brother of ours in your prayers? Also pray for Pai who has an eye appointment at the same hospital, on the same day! Of course he and Mae would not be anywhere else but with Joao Paulo, but God saw to it that they had to be together anyway!

It would be a blessing if you could write to Joao Paulo and let him know you are praying for him. I will make a point to get things translated and make sure he receives a huge amount of mail when he is finally able to see with both his eyes!

Please keep Joao Paulo in your prayers, this child really has a story to tell and it only started to get better when God came into his life. This procedure would never happen had he not come to Lar Batista! It blesses me to know that God’s best in his life is yet to come!

Praise the Lord with us
In Jesus,

Grace,

for the Lar Batista HAPPY and BLESSED family!