

## June 2009

Dear friends and family,

We are doing well here at Lar and the blessings of the Lord have been many! Also our challenges and daily reasons to depend on the Lord are the things that keep us on our knees before the Lord. In everything, the Lord has been faithful.

If you have followed my journey in my life and ministry for the past few years, you know of my struggles with my health. Some of it comes with age; some comes with diabetes, which is a very debilitating disease. Nevertheless, I have been assisted by several Godly doctors, who have been taking good care of me, both here in Brazil and also in Memphis, USA.

For the past 6 years, I have been considered blind and it was a very difficult thing for me. I like to see beautiful things, to appreciate God's creation and men's creativity as I travel and see architecture, gardens and things that really motivate me. I love to see my children and most of all, read my Bible, God's love letter to me. For the past 6 years, I have had more eye treatments and surgeries than I care to remember. For each one of them, the Lord provided financially. The results varied, but they did not last long. It was last year, while in the Holy Land that the Lord unveiled my eyes and allowed me to see the beauty of that place. From then on, my eyesight has improved more and more and I could not be happier!

I am very glad to let you know that two weeks ago I had an appointment with the DMV here in town and I passed my tests and was given my driver's license back! After 6 years!

All that to say... God is good and His time is not our time. With Him all things are possible, even to restore my eyesight at age 72. I never stopped believing God could heal me. I never stopped praying for what I wanted.

Maybe you are at a point in your life that you need to see the Lord come through to you and bless you even in prayers you might think are long forgotten. He does not forget our prayers, He is never late. It is my advice as your Pai that you will continue to pray, continue to hope and continue to do what is in your hands for these prayers to be answered. To pray is an action verb. We need to do something while we wait.

As you can see, I am as happy as a teenager with a driver's license! I continue to pray God will use this for his glory the same way he did when I got my other license almost 50 years ago!

Blessings to you,

Pai



*<sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*Matthew 6:33*

## Greetings dear family of Lar Batista.

Like the Apostle Paul, I give thanks to the Lord, our God upon every remembrance of you, and it is my prayer that all is well with you all.

We are doing well, our children growing and learning a lot and being open to the many opportunities God sends their way. They have been good witnesses of God's goodness, not only to those in their everyday lives, but also to teams that have come to see us this year. We have been blessed to see them learn, some in easier ways than others, that God's way is the best one for them. The only one. You have heard a lot about Joao Paulo and how God blessed him with a cornea transplant. His is on his way to recovery, and that can take a few months. Please keep him in your prayers.

Just this week, we received two little boys, Bruno and Marcelo, ages 3 and 11 months. We see this as an opportunity to start again and be a blessing in these little lives. Please pray with us as we raise these boys.

We are so close to being done with the chapel. God has been so faithful to us and allowed us to do so much more than we originally intended. The glory of this temple, like the word says, is far greater than that of the first temple! God's word repeating itself, across the centuries!

I like that we have established that those the Lord bring to Lar Batista become family to us. As such, today I want to share with you something I have had in my heart for a week.

I was in my garden before it got very cold here and I was praying and thinking of all the many wonderful people God brings into our lives. The ministry of Lar is formed by the great love and care of His many people. We have been working on the farm and each feet of that land is marked by the kindness of those who provided for that place of blessings.

We were working on the pig pen and the chicken cup when we heard of a tragic accident that took away the life of our dear sister *Janice Schuetz*, from Iowa. She and her husband Lyle have been an active part of our ministry, both with their prayer and also they generosity. Even though Janice was not a world traveler, she managed to come to see us, with Theresa and Jefferson, our son who married into her family. Her time with us was a blessing and she is greatly missed. It was humbling for us to know what a beautiful role Lar Batista has played in her life. How much she loved us, our children, and our farm. We heard she had plans to come see us and God knows we will be together again.





The homegoing of this servant of God makes me think of the fragility of life. It makes me want to do my best for the Lord, right now and not to wait for the future to be a blessing. The time is now. Brother Lyle, we have you in our prayers and heart and have our home open to you. You can count on that.

I know that our dear sister Janice never doubted our love and prayers for her. I would like for you to know that we love and appreciate each of you and whatever you do for us. We appreciate that you are family! We do not take you for granted at all. We love and appreciate each one of you! Consider the fragility of life and take time to thank God for the “Janices” in your life. People who work backstage, who spend time before the Lord in prayer and whose life will not be silenced by death. She is and will be remembered in our family.



As soon as the weather warms up, I will plant some fruit trees in her honor, in a way saying that her life will bear much fruit for many years to come.

Thank you for being a part of Lar Batista family and please pray for Lyle and his family. We are praying for you!

Blessings to you, from the Father above,

Pastor Joaquim B. Fragoso,

Pai

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24*