

October 2009

*But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalm 33: 11*

Greetings from our family at Lar Batista, to our family everywhere!

It is my prayer that this note finds you fine! We are doing well and got back home from our time in the USA we have been busier than ever. As you know from our previous letter, we went to Chicago for Joaquim's wedding and it was a very special and blessed time. As Mae and I got to Chicago a week before the wedding, Christine's family and also Joaquim showed me around and I was so glad to be exposed to so much of the beauty and culture of that place. I was truly blessed to visit Wheaton College and the Billy Graham Center. What a blessed time we had there. Back in Chicago, we took a tour of Moody Bible Institute and it was a compilation of joy and evidence of answered prayers. I got to share with some students about my respect for these men, Moody and Graham and also to tell them what God is doing here at Lar. It is my prayer that more young people will ignite the passion to do more for the Lord.



For the wedding weekend, we had a good number of our family come from Brasil, Luis and his family was also there and that was really good. Jefferson and Theresa brought me James and it was love at first sight. What a sweet blessing he is. We also had a good time in Memphis for a few more days before we came back home. This was a short visit, but we were able to go to First Evan and to visit with Growing in Christ, Sunday school fellowship, which always receives us with open arms. We also had a chance to share with AWANA kids and share about my passion for the Lord, Bible memorization and simply seeing children learning about the Lord. It was a highlight of my time there. I also met Pastor Cole Huffman and visited with Pastor Pradip Ayer. We continue to pray that God will do more and more with this partnership between First Evan and Lar Batista. Since we have been back we have worked non-stop to make sure things run well here at home. All this hard work makes me appreciate the effort of everyone who stayed behind to run the home while we were gone. We are a blessed family. God is good.



Back home:

We came back home to some incredible blessings. A new way God is providing for our needs with plenty of supplies. The Bible teaches about the first fruit of our crops, to be given to the Lord. You cannot imagine our joy when we heard of a new program in our region promoting just that! The local farmers coop here has come up with a program, in partnership with the city and they have been sending us all kinds of food items like potatoes, yucca, fruit, brown sugar, milk, soy, chicken, eggs and even meat. We have had more than we can consume, and we have been able to share with others as well. We have been making cheese and it has been a blessed time.

This season, spring, has also brought a lot of rain, some storms and a lot of damage to some of our property. The temperature has oscillated from very hot to very cold and caused us to have some hail storms, straight winds and a lot of repairs have been in order on our campus. Thank you for your prayers and also for the gifts that we received for our roof. You know who you are and God does too. You are in our prayers.

Next steps:

We are now getting the house ready for yet another celebration. Marta and Beto got married over two years ago, in Paris, France where they live. This November they will be coming home for the first time and they have been saving and will be offering a wonderful party in thanksgiving to the Lord for their marriage. They made a point in having everything ready and we will not have to do much for the party. Marta is an event planner and she has been coordinating her party all the way from Paris. Her graduating class, who spread out all over, will be getting together for this occasion. Tio Wayne will officiate the service and we will just thank the Lord for His goodness. Grace will also be home for this occasion and Audrey will join her and I am particularly looking forward to spoiling her. She calls me her chocolate grandpa and I need to live up to it.

In closing, speaking of grandchildren... this has been a great season of life for me. It was great to be in the USA with both Lucas and Douglas, my biological grandsons and also spend time with Audrey who adopted me. She even learned Portuguese praise songs and sang to me! Coming home we learned that Priscila and Adriano's soon-to-be-born baby is a girl and they are naming her after my mom, Julia! That really touched my heart! Just last week our town was in the news because of the hail storm and all the damage it caused. I got a phone call from Juliano, 9, who saw on TV that our town was in chaos and decided to call. He said: "I am just calling to see if my grandpa is fine. I have been praying for him!"

How can you measure such blessings? You can't! You just praise the Lord for them! As we go into the Thanksgiving season, I want you to know we are praying for each one of you. My days have been spent in the chapel and it has been, my joy to pray for each person, each request that comes to us.

Thank you so much for blessing us and being a part of our family. Please keep us in your prayers and close to your heart. We will do the same!

Blessings to you,

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