



## Asas de Socorro

Reaching, Assisting and Transforming Lives Through Aviation and Social Development

Greetings from Itajai, Santa Catarina!

Happy Belated New Year. May God's richest blessings in 2010 be yours.



How can we begin to express the joy and excitement we have experienced these past few weeks while spending time with our kids, plus one (Leighann)?! They have not been home for the holidays in several years. We greeted Jessica and Julie the 19th of Dec. on a typical warm, muggy day in the Amazon. Just bringing them home was so amazing. We gathered around the Christmas tree, gave a prayer of thanks and had our own little Christmas as a family, minus two (Joshua and Leighann). After the girls got some much needed sleep a couple of their friends came over to share a complete Christmas dinner with us. What a delight to watch them interact with friends, drive them around town and let them just relax. We went to our tent church and the sermon was all about family. The pastor asked everyone to unite with their families and pray together so we walked up front where Wilson was and dedicated our lives and family to the Lord once again. What an incredible way to begin our time together!

The 4 of us flew to south Brazil on the 24th of Dec. for the beginning of our vacation and mission deputation. We had a simple Christmas dinner with part of Wilson's family, including his folks. Wilson's mom is doing fine. His dad is still up and about and doing well although he is a lot more frail, unstable on his feet and emotional. The theme of his life is "Familia Reunida" which means "United Family!" This was God's special blessing for all of us for the next 3 weeks! That first week the skies were blue and beautiful, the days hot and humid and we thoroughly enjoyed trips to the beach with the girls (and sometimes grandma and grandpa) just going for walks, looking for shells, riding waves, sunbathing and climbing rocks.

Joshua and Leighann arrived in Brazil the 26th of Dec. and celebrated Christmas on their own at home. While in Manaus, Joshua had all 4 of his wisdom teeth out but was still able to show Leighann where he grew up, introduce her to some of his friends, take her to see our church and get some much needed rest. They arrived in south Brazil the 30th to beautiful blue skies and lots of sunshine. We picked them up at the airport, took the barge across the river to the city where Wilson's family lives and let them get a little taste of the beach.

On the 31st, we had a wonderful pot luck dinner with all the Kannenbergs... complete with fancy foods, delicious desserts and family fellowship. New Years arrived with a bang! Close to midnight, we drove to Camboriú, to one of the most beautiful beaches in this area. In the middle of that huge beach packed with over one million people, we welcomed the New Year together with family, Christian friends and lots of fireworks...an incredible display of lights exploding both in the sky and on the ocean for over 30 min! We were all hugging, shouting and praising God for how awesome He is and for the days, months and years He has given us. We also had the special privilege of celebrating the engagement of one of the cousins, Maico.

The following week was spent sight-seeing as a family, laying low and allowing Joshua to recuperate from his dental procedures and giving all the kids a chance to relax and recover from an especially busy semester. Some of

*the highlights of our time together were days at the beaches, family gatherings, New Year's celebrations, a day in Florianópolis taking in the breathtaking scenery from their observation tower and visiting the sand dunes, riding the cable cars in Camboriu where we could see miles of water front and ocean, visiting the botanical gardens in Curitiba and driving down the mountains to quaint little villages below. With a heavy heart, we left Jessica in Curitiba to head back to school a week before the others. What a blessing it was to be a family again, spend time together, watch the "kids" interact with their cousins and friends, get to know and love Leighann even more and enjoy the love and friendship that we all share!*

*Before they left, we had a special surprise...Joshua and Leighann announced their engagement. Joshua was waiting for just the right moment so in the evening on one of their many walks along one of the most famous beaches in this area, he proposed. We feel so blessed that they gave us the opportunity to be a part of it all, to hug them, congratulate them and show them our love and approval in person!! The night before they left, we had a family fish fry (shrimp, too) to celebrate their engagement and give everyone one last chance to say good bye. Joshua and Leighann still have many details to work out before choosing a wedding date. Joshua has completed his course and Leighann has one more semester to go. They will both graduate in May, but Leighann will still need to take one more class over the summer in order to finish her degree. Please pray with them that God will give them wisdom and show them His perfect timing for the wedding and work out all the details for their future!*

*We as a family want to thank you with all our hearts for helping to make our time so awesome! You have blessed us beyond compare with your love, prayers and support! There was a lot packed into the 4 weeks we spent with our kids, so many wonderful memories to cherish for the days and months to come, but what we will remember most of all is the privilege of just being together and belonging to God's family!*

*Joshua, Julie and Leighann left yesterday. How to say goodbye, be brave and try not to flood the airport with tears?! We already miss them all and long for the time we can be together once again, but how we rejoice knowing that they love God, desire to follow His will and are in His almighty hands. God has given each one of us His peace and purpose and we can only be thankful to be so blessed.*



Joshua just finished his Math major at College of the Ozarks. He will be living in Branson, MO and working full time at the Hilton Hotel. Leighann works as a lifeguard at the college and a waitress at the Hilton and will finish her second major in Computer Science this semester. (She just finished her Math major) Julie is at St. Francis School of Nursing in Peoria, IL finishing her 3rd year of nursing. She still works transporting patients at the hospital on weekends. Julie was just awarded a special loan to help out with her school bills each semester. After she graduates, she will work at the hospital for 2-3 years in order to cancel out her loan. Jessica is finishing her second year of nursing at C of O and works as a waitress at a Restaurant in Branson on the weekends. She is very excited to be working in the nursing department this semester.

Thank you for not only praying for us, but for upholding our kids in prayer as well. They are faced with so many major life decisions, schooling, jobs, careers, life partners, etc. They appreciate your love and prayers so much as they seek to honor God with their lives.

Wilson and I will now begin mission deputation, visiting supporters and churches and sharing all about missions and what God is doing through Asas de Socorro (Wings of Help) in the Amazon. We hope to speak to a large youth group soon and challenge them to seek God's will for missions. We will also be sharing about our ministries in a few local churches and challenging them to seek ways in which they can become involved.

It will be so good to visit with personal supporters that have ministered together with us over the years through their prayers and faithfulness. Pray that God will help us make the best use of our time here for His honor and glory! Our special thanks to each of you for your continued prayers and support for our time in south Brazil and for partnering together with us in the ministries here!

Sending you our love and hugs! God Bless...Wilson, Lori, Joshua, Julie, Jessica and Leighann!

PS Internet is unavailable most of the time here and even when it is, it is so slow that until now we have been unable to communicate much or send pictures. We hope at some point we will be able to do so. We try to respond to all who enter into contact with us so we are sorry if you have not heard from us for a while. Just know that you are in our hearts and prayers!!

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For more information to learn how you can support Lori and Wilson Kannenberg or if you need any information call: 1-800-359-7623 (donor department at MAF)

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Any personal gifts can be sent in our name to Les Bluhm, W197 S7544 Ridge Rd., Muskego, WI 53150-9231. He will deposit them into our personal account. We will not be able to send tax deductible receipts for personal money gifts.