

February, 2017

Wilson and I praise God for such a wonderful family. What a delight to spend time with family in south Brazil and have the awesome privilege of helping to care for Wilson's dad. Every night we gathered around to sing praises and have a devotional together. We are so blessed to have family both in Brazil and the USA... including YOU!



We had already left, but on January 20th, Udo and Iolanda Kannenberg celebrated their 66th anniversary... a lifetime of being BEST friends and companions, sharing joys and sorrows, living, loving and growing closer to the Lord and each other. Many of you have asked how dad is doing. He is some better after suffering his fall, which led to other complications. He is awake more, able to move his head and arm a little and says a word now and then. He has surprised us all by saying an occasional phrase and is overjoyed with emotion when visitors stop by. Dad is in good hands... God's hands! How thankful we are that Jessica and Ben have offered to continue helping the family with his care.



During our last couple of weeks, Wilson's sister stayed with Dad for a couple of hours each morning so we could go to the beach as a family. It felt so good to go for walks, taking turns with Ben and Jessica. We thoroughly enjoyed body surfing in the waves and playing in the sand with Lucas. He loved digging holes in the sand and knocking down towers.



His face totally smeared with sand, Lucas would often look at us and "crunch" his teeth together with a look that clearly said, "What's this gritty stuff in my mouth?!" So much FUN to be grandparents!!





We sure hope you don't mind if we "dote" just a little, but this was our first time to actually be together for a time and get to know this amazing little tyke. We are looking forward to spending much more time together as a family when Ben finishes his language training and they can move to Benjamin Constant.

It was very hard to say "good-bye" to family... especially to Wilson's dad. How thankful we are for the precious time God gave to be together during the holiday season!

The Middle of January, we headed for home to begin preparing for an upcoming mission trip with a team from IL the second week of February. We have been busy getting the boat ready for this first trip of the year; fixing minor ongoing maintenance issues, cleaning and reorganizing the kitchen, doing inventory of equipment and materials, etc. Wilson had to let his boat worker go, so for the time being, he will have a lot of extra details to take care of.

I am once again working on lesson plans in Portuguese for children's Bible stories and will be meeting with the new Pastor Coordinator's wife in town to see if she wants me to continue coordinating the Sunday Schools of nine churches as well as meeting with and training the teachers.

Please pray with us for Marty and Pam's mission team of four that will be arriving the 9th of February. We will go by boat to the river village called Bom Sucesso where we plan to build a church, evangelize and minister to the different age groups there. The other mission boat has already gone up the Javari river with Pr. Edgardo and Joe, a ministry partner, to evangelize and dig wells among the Marubo and Mayoruna Indian tribes. We are excited to now have the Jesus movie in the Mayoruna language.

Our deepest thanks for your love, prayers and support. We need God's direction and wisdom every day to know what He wants us to do, make wise decisions, portray Godly attitudes and lifestyle and to grow in His grace. We continue to pray for you, trusting God to meet your needs, bless you for your faithfulness to Him and keep you in His almighty care. It's good to be back and we can't wait to begin partnering with Doug and Lydia Caudill and Ben and Jessica Spicer in the near future!

*God's richest blessings,
Wilson and Lori*

P.S. During a skype call recently, our hearts went out to Lucas when he kept reaching toward us with his arms pleading "Hold me, hold me"!

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