

David E. Davis

October 23, 2007

Mid-October Prayer Update

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Last month was a difficult for me with my Grandmother passing away September 1. I was able to make it back to Lexington, SC for the funeral, spend time with family, and recoup, but there were too many loose ends down in Brazil to be able to move my furlough up; I had to return to Brazil after three weeks. And I arrived back at the project in Ouro Fino in time to hear "*Davi - nao temos agua!* / We don't have water!"

Thankfully we still had water in our well, but I had to replace the pump and solve some plumbing problems. Then I had an over-night bus to Belo Horizonte for the three-day State Children's Rights Convention, and then an overnight bus back. Finally then I got to unpack and enjoy my own bed. But it was good that I went; I was the only one from Ouro Fino and its neighboring counties to get the latest info on the new National Directives on Treating Juvenile Offenders (the treatment juveniles should get if they don't fit or reject the type of help our foster homes offer).

Then there was the battle to give Getulio a few breaks to look after his own health and to keep volunteers coming Saturdays so the new foster parents could have their day off. MTW missionaries, Dr. Jerry and Peggy Cross, came up two times from Londrina just to help tide things over. We also hosted a one-day twelve-person work group from the Berean Church in Jacutinga. Volunteers have been helping a lot more, but everything boils down to getting more full-time workers so every emergency doesn't generate a crisis (like fighting a road-side brush fire a week ago from 10 pm to 2 am so it wouldn't reach our pastures!)

Thursday was my first day feeling well and normal after 5 days of being extremely sick after a tick bite so I'm still playing catch-up. (This was the second time I had to use the missionary medical manual myself and it was a lot faster, more helpful, and specific than the local emergency room.)

The boys finally adapted to the new foster parents three weeks ago; Ricardo and William were the first to adapt, Lucio and Allif were the last. Everything was on hold till that happened! Now pray that Allif also starts behaving at the public school before he gets expelled! There's a good chance that both William and Ricardo will advance to their next grade at year's end (after repeating for 4 years). William has a liking for Getulio's daughter! But the other boys' passions are TV and Bikes! We had a bike fixed or donated for each boy to be responsible for one.

Antonio officially wants to buy a starter house in Ouro Fino; the board has given him till the end of the year to leave the nest, even if he must rent. But till then we are giving him and all the rest of the boys more cooking classes. Roberto wants to rent in Crisolia, but he's still "camping out" at the Patucci's even after finishing his GED; they will have to be the ones to nudge/kick him out of the nest.

Facility wise, the computer room and music room are totally finished and the Library/ Tutoring/ English room and the Weaving/Crafts room just lack rewiring. Hopefully even those will be finished in a week or two, but can already function during the day with extension cords. Now we are structuring their Vocational - Ed activities: Computers on Mondays and Thursdays, Tutoring and directed reading on Wednesdays. Since the Psychologist is on Tuesdays, that leaves Fridays still open - pray for someone to teach music (esp. guitar). We should never hear the phrase anymore "*nao tem nada para fazer* / there's nothing for us to do!"

After a little pre-programmed resistance, all the kids have grown to like the Bible Baptist churches: Sunday School in Jacutinga and evening worship in Ouro Fino. Everyone stays at home as a family on week-nights, but there is a 30-minute home Bible study Monday through Thursday. Joao is leading them through the "Building on Firm Foundations" chronological Bible study materials that New Tribes Mission and many Baptist missionaries use.

Praise God!!!! We finally got rain this week!!!! Our pond had only about a foot of water left in it and the fish would have started dying any day.


The board has continued to work well, but pray for a replacement for Alex who just took a good local banking job that will conflict with the hours that everyone else can meet. This past Monday's Board meeting laid out in observance of our current personnel crunch what things to realistically do/not do during the short term (till November 13), medium term (while David is in the US), and long term (when David returns in mid February). As you can see, the Brazilian Board is also helping get me to a healthier pace.

This week we interview a prospective second couple to work with us. We still will need a third couple on board before we can officially reopen the other foster home; we always need a substitute couple on hand for the foster parents days off.

As soon as we know we have more workers, we'll start receiving more kids. Wednesday we and the Child Welfare Board interviewed the biological mom of the next two boys in line. Ages four and seven, they are the objects of extreme emotional abuse by their dangerous step dad. Third in line is Lucas, little brother of former foster kids Alex and Filipe from eight years ago; his dad who kept him in line just died. Now Lucas, age 11, is spending too much time with bad company on the street.

And needless to remind you to pray for the next lawsuit hearing on Tuesday (Oct. 23).

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Davis

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