



Hello, Dear Friend,

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ. A lot has happened since our last prayer letter sent at the end of 2019. That letter was written while we were still in Brazil preparing for the great transition that our family would go through to do missions in Paraguay. One of our prayer requests was for us to be granted American visas to be able to start our deputation in the U.S. You prayed and God answered! Visas were granted! We arrived in the U.S. on January 14 this year for a five-month period of deputation where we were scheduled to attend missionary conferences in the South, Midwest, and East Coast.

We started by visiting the churches in Alabama. Forest Park Bible Church - Mobile, AL; Greystone Bible Church - Mobile, AL; Grace Bible Church - Mobile, AL; and Grace Bible Church - Fairhope, AL, all held a single conference together. We were impressed by the commitment and service from those brothers and sisters in Christ. Our stay with them was also marked by wonderful fellowship and plenty of food. Alabama brethren "We love y'all."



*Game night at Grace Bible Church in Mobile*



*A church service at Forest Park Church in Mobile*



*Fellowship in Alabama on our final night*

We arrived in Michigan in the winter and saw snow for the very first time. Lots of fun! Here is where most of the midwestern missionary conferences concentrate. We are staying in Grand Rapids with a dear brother and now good friend Wayne Hodgson who so kindly welcomed us into his home and has shown us so much love and hospitality. We attended some great missionary conferences, visiting churches and individuals many of whom have started to support us, whether prayerfully or financially, for which we also praise God.

The outbreak of COVID-19 resulted in the cancellation of most events on our agenda. Although the quarantine affected our plans, it has not affected God's plans for us. Having received so many answers to prayer from the Lord just to get us to where we are today — it is not a time to doubt but to exercise our faith and trust in God.



*Enjoying snow in Michigan*



*Missions conference at Grace Christian University*



*Speaking at Grace Bible Fellowship AWANA*



The month of March is when all the ladies in our family have their birthdays. Our family is so grateful for all the affection shown from our friends here in the States who remembered, brought gifts, and warmed our hearts.



*Missions conference at Parkside Bible Church*



*The twins' birthday*



*Viviane's birthday*

The quarantine gave us the opportunity to learn about other ways of doing ministry. Viviane found time to dedicate herself to learning English, as she only knows Portuguese and is familiar with Spanish, English is very important for her to communicate better with our American friends and also to teach our kids as we intend to home school them in English. I (Cleiton) began to record devotionals on video and do online sermons. We were also able to figure out how home schooling works. Having talked to other home school families, we now feel confident and prepared to start schooling our kids.



*Cleiton preaching at Bethesda Church in Prior Lake, MN*



*Spending time with the Francis family in Minnesota*



*Visiting with the Molina family in Minnesota*

The week after Easter, we took a trip to visit our longtime friends, Pastor Joel and Darcy Molina, in Minneapolis, MN. The Molinas were missionaries in Brazil years ago and through their ministry I received Bible training and learned English. I had the opportunity to preach at Bethesda Church (Prior Lake, MN) for their online service on Sunday morning and meet some families during the week.

A remarkable event during our time in Minnesota was the opportunity to see Ken and Mary Mueller, GMI missionaries who formerly served in Brazil, and being in their 90's, continue to vigorously serve the Lord writing books and Bible commentaries in Portuguese. They were such an encouragement to us. We loved our time in Minnesota.

Originally our date of return to Brazil was set for June 5, so we could pack our belongings there and then move to Paraguay. In fact, we cannot wait to get to the mission field and "put the hands to the plow" alongside the other missionary families who are there already. Our plans are to start an evangelism ministry inside the universities. There are large numbers of Brazilian college students in Ciudad del Este we want to reach with the gospel. Besides, we want to help plant churches in at least two other strategic cities, Asuncion (the capital) and Encarnacion. Even though we are very excited to start serving, we accept the Lord's timing. At the moment, Paraguay's borders are closed. Pray these will be opened soon. By the grace of God, we have reached 41% of our monthly support budget! Thank you so much for supporting our ministry. Also pray that we can visit more individuals and churches here in the States before we leave.

## The Menors

Some other prayer requests:

- For the pandemic situation to end.
- For those who are falling sick, especially the most vulnerable ones.
- For us to be able to see God's hands working through this situation.
- For our fund raising process and those who shall join our support team.