



Lantz Missionary Update

Nov / Dec 2007



Brazil Mission Society

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By Paul Lantz

Home for Christmas

This month the pastor of the church we attend invited me to work with him in the terminally ill ward of a hospital in Porto Alegre. Although the rooms reeked of rotten flesh, there were many moments I felt as if I was standing on holy ground while listening and consoling patients and family members. To add a little perspective to our Christmas 2007, I'd like



Pastor Elbert listening to Mario on Thursday, December 13th sharing a last request.

to introduce you to one of the precious people from the hospital. He is 57 year old Mario. When my seven year old son saw me typing this story he looked over my shoulder and saw the photo of Mario. My son said, "Dad, you can see his bones. Does that mean he is dying?"

"Yes, son."

My son continued, "What is the pastor saying?" I explained how the pastor was

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God so loved the world that He gave His only Son... John 3:16

listening to Mario ask if the hospital staff will let him return home for Christmas to be with those he loves one last time. Then, I shared how Mario was ready to die because he knew Jesus was going to give him eternal life. That was all my son wanted to hear. He smiled and walked away to go play. Why during the holidays do we seem to get so stressed out over silly things and fail to fully appreciate God's gift of life and family?

During this time of year it's common to remember loved ones that have passed away. But what does it really mean to "be home?" Just like the wise men we find REAL home when we encounter God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus. He is called "Immanuel"

or "God with us." Romans 8 reminds us that nothing can separate God's family! That is the essence of the Christmas message. Why some people reject this gift is the real mystery. I still haven't heard if Mario was able to return home or not. But I'm certain that I will see him again because he is part of God's family. Perhaps there is no one you know in the terminally ill ward right now, but someone is looking for you to offer the gift of hope in Jesus.

Merry Christmas!

One Year Down, Two to Go

This wonderful first year of seminary studies has officially come to an end. The plan continues to be the next twelve months of classes for 2008 here in Brazil. Then, our final year of seminary 2009 as a vicar somewhere in the United States with a strong mission focused congregation. Finally, graduation in December 2009 and anxiously waiting that first call to begin serving a church in January 2010. Sure there is a long way to go and many things unknown; however, we trust in God and continue to move forward. Rose and I cannot begin to express our thankfulness to God for all we have experienced this year in Brazil. Sure there have been times of suffering and struggle, but that's part of life. God's protection, provision, and direction never fail. (1 Cor. 13) Finally, a huge thanks to each person that has made this year's mission possible through your prayers and financial generosity. Our Christmas greeting to you, all our dear family and friends, is found in the words of this photo with our children.



Paul Alfredo, Karis, and Lucas Christmas 2007. Words above manger say: "THE SAVIOR IS BORN!"



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To offer financial support for the mission of the Lantz family in Brazil, please send your check payable to "Brazil Mission Society" care of Lantz Family Mission to the following address:

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