

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I have heard that Canada is having a rough winter this year; I'd love to change with you. This summer has been brutal with some days hitting 45C with a sensation of 50C+! I know my newsletters have been few the last while and I wanted to fill you in on what is going on here in Rio and with us. Since our last email we finished out our Evangelism Project for the year in both Providencia and Santa Marta. Our year ended great with over 170 kids hearing the gospel! We were also able to bring together both teams for some fellowship time just before Christmas with a BBQ at our house. It was great to see 15 people together that share a desire to evangelize the poor.

At the beginning of the year I started working on preparations for our new year of ministry. This has included writing/translation of a Child Protection Policy for the ministry, volunteer/employee rules and regulations, lesson translation and even trying to figure out how to draw. In each of the lessons we teach we have a story at the end and it makes a huge difference if the kids

have pictures to look at. Many of the stories are missing these pictures so I figured out how to do it, I guess even old dogs can learn new tricks! The Swiss missionary that we have been waiting for has finally arrived in Brazil. Leandra Kubecska will be joining us full-time (an answer to one of my prayer requests for the ministry here) she is gifted in administration which will be an excellent asset to the ministry here. I will spend the next few weeks helping her get settled and get all her documents done (which in Brazil takes a really long time). We will be beginning our outreaches in March. We will be starting up again in Providencia on Saturday, March 16 in the afternoon. There, we have a team of 4 or 5 people assisting us reach this community on top of a steep hill overlooking the city center. We can have anywhere between 60 and 120 kids attend; plus some teenagers and adults that come to watch.

Our Santa Marta outreach will begin on Wednesday, March 20 both in the morning and afternoon. Santa Marta is a slum built on a steep hill in the shadow of the Statue of Christ.

Here we count on two teams; a morning team and an afternoon team. The children that attend come from an afterschool program run by another missionary. We have about 70 children that attend between the two sessions. We currently run the outreach at a church near the slum, at the team's request. But we are hoping, God willing, to move the location where we do our outreach to a more effective one that would allow children not part of the afterschool program to attend; right at the main entrance to the slum.

## OUR FAMILY

That is where we are at with the ministry. But what I need to share with you is where we are at personally. These past two years have been difficult for us and not just because of the heat! Around the time my mother passed and Oscar came I found that ministry became more draining than usual and recovery didn't come as it normally did. One of the reasons why we came to Rio was so that I could take on less responsibility and take on a more of a supporting/guiding role. I also spent some more time working on my hobbies and exercising and even

seeing a counselor. But as time passed I have found my energy has not returned and just these past couple of months I have come to realize I am burned out. One thing I know about ministry is that one must be well to help another and I know now that I am not well and I need a break. Jucelia and I realize that now and we are praying for God's direction and we would ask you to pray for us too in this difficult time as we try to figure out what He wants us to do. We have looked into different options but still have no clear direction at this time but we feel a decision will need to be made in the near future. We would ask you to keep us in your prayers as we make that decision, whatever it may be, that it be the right one; that it be good for our family and for His kingdom. We appreciate so much your support and we know we can count on you during this time as well. We will keep you updated on everything that happens and any decisions we make. May God richly bless you as He has us.

Everything for Him,

The Krause Family