

Greetings from Rio!

I hope this letter finds you all well and that your summer has been restful and sunny! We finally have a relief from the heat here; it's the middle of winter and the temperature can fall to a freezing 18C... hahaha! Sorry I'm not trying to make anyone jealous, I actually miss being cold!

To start, I would like to apologize for this being only the second newsletter we've sent out this year. I feel I owe you a short explanation: In our last newsletter we shared with you the possibility of returning to Canada on account of my burnout. We have been praying and asking for God's direction; we have asked advice from our missions group but to be honest we haven't felt at peace with any plan that has come up. I am still feeling burned out. This decision is very difficult, especially for me because every decision I've had to make before just kind of flowed out naturally (when one ministry was ending another ministry opportunity came at right about the same time and came so naturally it was an easy and obvious choice to make) but this one is quite unlike any I've made before; first of all because it's not just me anymore but it's us as a family and secondly because we know our time here is at an end but no opportunities have shown themselves whether here or there. We've put our name out there and are open to whatever God puts before us but no doors (or even windows!) have opened so we are very unsure of what God wants us to do. Where in lies our difficulty in making our decision. We do not want to make a decision like this; with so much uncertainty. So what we have decided is to wait until

God gives us some direction (and to be honest we don't require much) just something from Him, whether it be ministry or otherwise. We don't feel we should move until God provides us some kind of direction. We really hope you can understand and continue to lift us up in prayers as we pass through this valley. It has not been easy and we pray that you will help us carry this burden. We very much appreciate your support. Thank you.



Oscar is now 3 ½ and loves to eat pancakes like a good Canadian!

The Ministry

On the ministry side of things; it couldn't be better. Leandra, the missionary from Switzerland is now with us and settled in, though she's had a rough start health wise; she got chikungunya which is like dengue fever (a lot of pain in your joints that lasts for months) and colds and the like but she's here and happy, praise the Lord; also our outreach in Providencia is still going strong as before. But there have been quite a few changes/developments since our last newsletter too. Our outreach in

Santa Marta has changed; the church we were partnered had a change of leadership and the new leadership decided to not continue the outreach but they did set up a meeting with another local church through which we have formed a partnership with and who adopted our method of evangelism. It's a Methodist church that is partnered with a Baptist church within the slum. Up till now we have been running the outreach from their church as we train them but will start experimenting running the outreach within the slum starting in Oct.



Training session with Methodist and Baptist churches

Also, the pastor from the Baptist church came to our training and has asked us to come to another slum in the north part of the city to start an outreach with a group he knows that live there and are looking for a way to reach their community. That will be next month. We were also approached by a lady who asked if we would go to another slum right next to Providencia (called Pedra Lisa) and meet with a group that does an after school program and who might be interested in having us come there too. We met with them, though they are not Christian themselves, we explained that what we do is evangelism; preaching the gospel; praying with the kids and all that and they were all for it so we believe God opened the door to begin an outreach there

too, which we began in July. And at the beginning of August we met with Leandra's pastor here in Rio to visit a slum called Cidade de Deus (City of God) a large slum in the south of Rio. We met with a group that is trying to reach their community through Capoeira (it's a Brazilian martial art) and a feeding program. But as of yet they still do not preach the gospel so we see a possibility of a good partnership. We are looking into doing a test there at some point either this month or next month to see how we are received and if the team there gets onboard with it. Please pray for these possibilities. **God is blessing the ministry here** and it is growing. May it all be for His glory!



Playing with some of the kids from Pedra Lisa.

Prayer Requests

- God's direction for us as a family
- Monique, a volunteer for Providencia that has connected with Eveline and is starting to become more involved and beginning to open up, may their relationship produce fruit.
- Safety for us and the people within the slums we work with. Confrontations between the police and criminal element flare up without warning and can last days.

Everything for Him,

Ben, Jucelia and Oscar