

FAMILY



Merry Christmas!! May you have a wonderful Christmas season and a blessed New Year. The kids only have a few more days of school left before they have a well-deserved break. Our family schedule is crazy with kids always coming and going with practices and auditions and tutoring and doctor's appointments. It can get a little stressful at times. Faith and Liberty have begun attending a student led Bible study during a free hour they have at school. It's called Shine, and it's wonderful to see other students who aren't ashamed to open their Bibles and pray while classmates and faculty pass by. As a rule, Portuguese believers aren't so bold. We pray that the younger

generation will continue to show their boldness as they mature. Last month, one of Brooklyn's music teachers showed up at our Sunday morning service, completely unannounced, without any prior hint to her that he was interested. Unbeknownst to her, he was baptized in the baptist church in Braga in the 80s, but has apparently been away from the Lord for some time now. After service he told us that he wasn't expecting for the atmosphere to be so joyful and happy, but that it was a welcomed surprise. He gladly accepted a Bible from the church, and said that he wouldn't be able to make the drive often but would like to come back some time in the future.

A few weeks ago we celebrated Thanksgiving with our church family. It's something that we started a few years ago and has become one of the highlights of our year. This year we had a record high of 40 in attendance. Since I firmly believe in the maxim, "Leaders eat last." the large number meant that Nina and I, along with another couple ate at the ping pong table.



It was great. Of the forty who participated, only 3-4 don't regularly attend our services. That means that we need to plan for more seating next year.

Our discipleship classes with Debora continue. She comes from an Adventist background, and constantly struggles with her mother's interpretation of Scripture. Please pray for the Lord to give light. Also, pray for Erick who has been attending services off and on for a few months. He was baptized a Mormon. We have had a few discussions, but he hasn't yet come renounce his faith in the LDS. So, I've been praying lately about having an Apologetics conference at our church to help people learn more about how to defend their faith and engage the culture over here.

Recently, I've had several good opportunities to share the gospel with some of our football players. One, Jan, who just joined the team is an atheist. After our initial conversation about "religion" he said that he would love to talk to me some more. He's watched our church service (which we stream online), and shows a level of curiosity that tells me his atheistic beliefs might be shallow. Yet, he protests that it would be very difficult for someone to convince him to be a believer. I told him it wasn't my job to convince him. That's the Holy Spirit's work. I do want to be a witness that might point him to Christ. Our furlough is scheduled for next summer. As always, it will be a quick one. Pray for the finances for tickets and for meetings where we can be used by the Lord to present our burden and stir hearts about missions. We hope to see as many of you as possible in 2017!

-The Andrzejewskis

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