



GRATITUDE

Hello, Prayer Partners!

There's WAY more to be thankful for than we could write in this email! God has been good, gracious, faithful and so much more in many different ways. While on our "10-weeker" in the States, we had lots of encouraging times. Safety in long drives and flights; wonderful reunions in meetings at supporting churches (that felt like we were with family); encouraging times with different missions committees and leadership teams; awesome fellowship with many great and long-term friends; opportunities to share our faith and show Christ's love; and great family times, with the addition of Charlie, Caitlyn's first baby, who came 4 weeks early just so we'd have more time to hold him!!

We came back to our Castro Alves church family and found them happy,

growing, and serving more. Pastor Alex finally got a car; a family got saved while we were gone (which is something we've prayed would happen for a LONG time, because we never wanted them to associate conversions with our presence!); there are a couple of new SS teachers; and a couple of our men asked Dave to help them dive deeper into theology so they can better serve and teach others! No more people have left, there are more visitors, our people are FINALLY praying more and seeing the results of that, and our teens are also growing. They went to a retreat and God really got ahold of their hearts. There's not room to share all the incredible stories we'd like to!



Click on the image above to see a video our church put together of their work day. We've wanted to have one for a long time, and in the end, we weren't even able to be there!



This is the family that just got saved, and they already brought some friends with them!



Pastor Alex and Ângela at church with their car!!



The retreat goers met at our church 2 months afterward for a follow-up challenge and time of fellowship.



The English Outreach gang



Check out our smartphone friendly "Newsflash" page!

Just point your phone camera at the QR code and tap the link that pops up

JOY & HEARTACHE

The day after we landed Dave drove to a church around 90 minutes away and spoke at an English outreach they put together. There were about 30 church people present and about 35 visitors. It was really exciting to see and be part of!

The next day we celebrated Guga and Kelly's 10th anniversary with a church wedding (since like many couples here, they never had one). It was SO God-honoring and, besides Dave, they both shared the Gospel and God's love. Awesome stuff!

Dave has had to do several more health exams for different things, none super serious but that we'd like answers on and remedies for.

We were also honored to speak at a church whose pastor (37 years ago) was just a 17-year-old, crazy teen on our camp staff! His son just got ordained and is assisting him. We had great fellowship with them after the service too. They're losing their building (through no fault of their own), so it was a privilege to encourage them some and see that they're resilient and ready for what God has for them. They're going to rent a hotel auditorium as they wait for God's leading. They're in a middle class area that's very built up and buildings to buy and remodel are very expensive (open land is nonexistent). Pray for Pastor Ricardo and the Tatuapé church!

Serving at our own Castro Alves church is becoming rarer now, as it should. But last weekend we were able to help with the music and Alex asked Dave to preach.

After 13 years of marriage and lots of tests (which some of the extra offerings we received during the pandemic helped with), Ângela got pregnant. We'd prayed with and for them so much, along with helping, that they announced it to the church 2 days before we flew to the US, just so we could celebrate with them. Well, at about 7 weeks, she lost the baby - on Brazil's Father's Day! Alex preached, sang and did everything at church that day and only shared the sad news the next day because he didn't want to distract from everyone's celebrations! Ângela sent Jan a picture of an exam she got back from the doctor's office that had RH- circled in red. She asked Jan why it was circled and Jan realized they never gave her the shot to reverse that! RH+ is necessary for a pregnancy to be successful. So THAT was heartbreaking and frustrating! Please pray with us that God will give them baby #2 soon!!

AND . . . yes, AS USUAL, there is SO much more we could share. God never stops working. It's really amazing to have been privileged to be on the "front

lines" for so long. What an HONOR!!

Thanks **SO MUCH** for your part in the ministry here, praying for us & also giving!

We're serving **TOGETHER** with you and we love you,

Dave & Jan

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