

Missio Dei Newsletter

Newsletter II – January 31, 2010

WHERE WE ARE NOW

First off, thank you all so much for the encouraging replies to our previous newsletter and blog posts! We love knowing that we are not doing this alone, but have people locking arms with us in support. We are now about two months and counting till our goal of moving to Brazil for 6 months, and we have made some substantial progress toward that goal. If you haven't checked that out our blog yet (www.chroniclesmd.blogspot.com), please do because it is your best way to stay up to date with us. At the bottom of the page you can type in your email address and get all of our blog posts emailed directly to you.

We are keeping our eyes on a couple different plane tickets in hopes that we will purchase the best one this week in order to give Jay (Director, Restore Brazil) the go-ahead for finding a temporary home for us there in Rio. We anticipate that our flights will end up costing around \$1,200 each, including a mandatory change fee that we must pay because we are only allowed a 3 month Visa with a 3 month extension. Not your average flight to Vegas eh? Then our Visas will be an additional \$130 each. Thank goodness we already have our passports! Giulian has started online language study and already has a knack for the language, while Christy needs to start brushing up on the Portuguese she learned in school. *Adiante!*

This week, we will begin to meet with a few small groups from our church here in League City because our hope is that our stories can ignite a passion for God's global mission, particularly what He is doing in Brazil, within the context of community. If your small group or group of friends and family would like to participate, please contact us because we would love to come and share about what God is doing in our lives. You will have the opportunity to track with us very closely by watching video together and reading the authentic, heartfelt stories of what God is doing on the ground in Rio. Financially, our idea of 75 people giving \$15 a month for 7 months has caught on as we now have \$150/month accounted for! Many of you have previously given to our mission and/or expressed an interest in giving financially. We challenge you to begin fulfilling that commitment now by following the steps at right. Please let us know if you have any questions about giving.

NEWS FROM RESTORE BRAZIL

Taken from Restore Brazil Year-End Summary

- We have been working with Rio de Paz in the prisons and in the favelas (slums). Our work in the prisons has resulted in media coverage (with Al Jazeera) and political impact (release of 600 men from one prison), as we confront human rights abuses.
- We are continuing our plans to plant churches in the poorest areas of Brazil. We have already identified a pastor, resources, and a site for our first church plant in City of God [slum].
- We have seen partner ministries emerging in both Brazil and the United States (Desiring God Int'l Outreach, Acts 29).

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU BUY WITH \$15?

We know that by committing to give \$15 a month for 7 months you can pay for an important portion of our trip to Brazil, but what else can you buy with a measly ole' \$15? Here's a short list-

- 2 Adult Matinee movie tickets
- 5 used books on clearance at Half Price
- 1 new book at Barnes & Noble
- 4 Tall Frappuccinos at Starbucks
- 60 game tokens at Chuck E. Cheese
- 1 crappy ticket to a ball game + parking
- 6.02 gallons of gas in League City, TX
- 4.95 gallons of gas in Fullerton, CA
- 16 packs of Peanut Butter M&M's

As you can see, \$15 can go a long way which is why we need YOU to give \$15 a month to help us Restore Brazil!

START GIVING NOW

All gifts are tax-deductible through Restore Brazil.

1. **Online** – This is the easiest way to be a monthly giver. Go to <http://www.xpoinite.com/give> and click "Give Online." Create an account so that you can have a user id. Once you login, choose "Restore Brazil" from the funds dropdown menu and follow the steps to give. You do not need to indicate that it's for us, we will receive it.
2. **By Mail** – Make checks payable to "Restore Brazil" and write "Giusti-Brazil" in the note area. Mail to:

RESTOREBRAZIL
10524 Moss Park Rd Ste 204 #620
Orlando, FL 32832

WHY MISSIONS? THE GOSPEL AS LIGHT

Missions did not start at Pentecost. In the heart of God you see that throughout all Scripture He has a deep concern for all people and has had a plan to extend his grace to all. In the book of Isaiah, God tells us that he will be sending his Servant as a light for the nations (Is. 42:6-7). This light was fulfilled in Jesus. He brought the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God (2 Cor. 4:6) in order to carry out God's plan of redemption. Throughout the Scriptures, the metaphor of light is used to show that God has and is still revealing himself to his people. Jesus tells us that those who love Him are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14), which means we have some work to do.

Light dispels ignorance and replaces it with knowledge. In this case, the Gospel is the light that frees man from darkness of slavery to sin (Eph. 5:8). Missions must include proclamation of the Gospel to fulfill Jesus' commission. In order to be the mid-wife of regeneration, those on mission must be promulgating the person and work of Jesus.

One thing that really attracted us to Restore Brazil is their emphasis on planting "Gospel-Centered" churches in Rio. Their passion is to equip pastors so that the preaching, the community, the worship, and the serving are all done through the centrality and sufficiency of Christ. They are committed to building churches that preach Christ crucified, which was Paul's most passionate message as well (1 Cor. 2:2). Our hope, and the reason we are going, is to assist Restore Brazil in serving God through bringing the light of the Gospel through proclamation in Rio.