

“Are we there yet?” The little voice from the backseat asked 45 minutes into our two hour drive. So on came the Bible songs cd and before long we were all singing along to “Glory, Glory Hallaluaia, and I am a C...I am a C-H..I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N. Our destination, Presidente Prudente. Our reason for traveling there was that Micah had been asked to come and preach on Saturday night and Sunday night. If you keep up with this blog you might remember that a few months ago Micah went on a trip to visit some churches and help put on some training events (post: Phases). At one of these churches he was invited to come back and preach. So that is where we were headed. It ended up being a great weekend. We arrived Saturday just in time to change clothes before the 8pm service. Micah shared his testimony, then after the service we went back to Pastor Elias’s house for pizza. It was 1:30 am before we were back to our hotel and in bed. Sunday morning Micah went to see some work that the church is doing in a poorer neighborhood then we had lunch again with Pastor Elias and his family. He and his wife Marlene have two children ages 6 and 4 and our girls loved playing with them. After lunch Micah and Noelle rested and Samara and I hung out in the lobby until it was time to get ready for the evening service. Micah preached that night and then again we had dinner at Pastor Elias’s house. It turned into another after midnight night. (Now I know that many of you have kiddos and keeping them up till 1am to have dinner with friends would probably never happen, but here in Brazil it’s not uncommon at all!) We very much enjoyed our visit with Elias and Marlene. It was really the first time that we’ve had dinner with friends and the kids were big enough to pretty much play on their own so we were free to have a real conversation. Monday we checked out and headed home with two very sleepy little girls who conked out within minutes of being buckled in the car.

Just this Friday we found ourselves in the car again headed to Presidente Prudente, this time for missionary retreat. Once a year all the OMS missionaries get together for a few days of business meetings, fellowship and rest. We stayed in a nice little hotel where we used their conference room to meet, play games, eat homemade ice cream and share about what we’ve been doing and learning since we all were last together. It was a full time and while it was to be a retreat I’m sorry to say that everyone in our family came home exhausted. Micah as field leader was leading the meetings and I was trying to keep two busy little girls entertained in a hotel without tearing the place down. Naps? What, there are spinny chairs in the lobby, elevator buttons to push, and new friends to play with. Bedtime? When our beds are two feet apart and we can giggle and squeal and peek over the port-a-crib at each other?! While we thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the missionary family, I would not qualify Micah and my time as “restful.” Sunday afternoon we headed home once again with two sleepy little girls in the backseat.

Monday found Micah repacking his bag to head to a pastoral retreat at the camp about 45 minutes away. The retreat is a week long time for the pastors within the denomination and their wives to get away for a time of spiritual renewal including special speakers, crafts for the ladies, soccer games, meeting times and hanging out...Kind of like camp for the pastors and wives. Unfortunately it is not a kid friendly schedule or event, so I’m home with the girls for the week. One of the things I’m doing this week is preparing for our trip to the USA!

Yes, we’re heading back to the states to be a part of Micah’s twin brother’s wedding in Sitka, Alaska. Quite some time ago we had an idea that a wedding might be coming up so we started saving our pennies and praying with the hopes of getting Micah there for

the big day. Of course we all wanted to be part of that event but figured there was NO way we'd be able to afford it. Well God answered our prayers in a HUGE way with a tax return that covered within four dollars of the cost of three plane tickets (Noelle will spend the 40+ hours on our laps=0)!! So this next Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> we are heading to Alaska. We will spend a week with my parents in the Homer area, a week in Sitka for the wedding and a week in Newberg with Micah's parents. Micah will continue his administration responsibilities and keep up with meetings via email and SKYPE. We will also be sharing in several churches and making contact with as many supporters as is possible while there. We are super excited to be going to Aaron's wedding and to get a new sister and auntie in the family!! Oh, and the Grandparents are just a tad excited as well. So excited in fact that Grampa 'laska built and pirate ship and a play house in the backyard and Gramma Oregon's been having a ball finding dollies and doll clothes at yard sales. I'm sure it is going to be a great visit. And yes, I've got the Bible songs cd ready to be packed for the plane ride and I'm sure my parents will love when we all arrive with "Father Abraham" stuck in our heads.

#### Prayer and Praise:

- \*Praise God for the great time of sharing we had with Pastor Elias and his family and church body in Presidente Prudente.
- \*Thank God for the fellowship time with the other OMS missionaries at our retreat.
- \* Pray for Micah's health, talked to him earlier this evening and he's come down with a cold at the pastor's retreat.
- \* Pray for the girls as we prepare to head to the USA, yet another big transition.
- \* Pray for our traveling to the States, that the girls travel and rest well and that there would be an empty seat in our row for Noelle.