

Hannah and Tim Latin Link

Serving Marginalised Communities in Brazil and South Sudan

Dear friends,

This month we ask for your prayer for the very busy coming weeks for us as a family, and share some reflections on cross-cultural life as a mum in Brazil.

Our next few weeks broken down:

We have a busy time with lots of travels over the coming weeks. Please pray for us, especially around the following dates:

- **30th Jan - 9th Feb:** we are all attending the Latin Link International Assembly in Guatemala. Pray for journey mercies, especially for Rita (the flights take as long as flights to the UK!).
- **9th-12th Feb:** We return to Brazil for Carnival weekend in Gaibu, to do washing & re-packing, and travel to UK on 12th Feb. Pray for those 3 days as Carnival can be noisy and violent in Gaibu.
- **12th Feb:** we travel to UK for 2 weeks to get visas and jabs in preparation for our annual visit to South Sudan. It is still not clear whether Hannah and Rita will be able to travel too. Pray that we would make a wise, well-informed decision. If all goes smoothly with visas, Tim at least should be travelling to Juba, S. Sudan in early March, possibly followed by Hannah and Rita soon after, returning to Brazil on 9th April.

Musings of a Missionary Mum:

‘You don’t feed her porridge every day?’; ‘I thought you were going to drop her: you hold her funny’; ‘What a lovely baby boy!’ (she doesn’t have pierced ears and only wears bows in her hair for special occasions); ‘She should be at home. It looks like it might rain’; ‘Where’s her dummy?’; ‘You shouldn’t take her out on the street without socks: she will catch cold’ (she doesn’t walk yet, and is often hot when we’re out and about).

Sometimes the constant stream of advice we receive on Rita’s well-being can be difficult to swallow. Sometimes we feel like people think we are really bad parents. Sometimes we are shocked that strangers take photos of our baby and post them on Facebook without our permission. Sometimes we feel like saying ‘but you’re a stranger and we are following the Brazilian health authorities’ advice on when and how much bottled water to introduce!’ Sometimes it’s lonely and we wish we could find a reliable baby-sitter!

February/Fevereiro/Akɔɔdit ‘18



Please be praying:

- A few of the young adults who we have walked alongside and invested in have decided to leave the church for various reasons (including for further study abroad). Pray for Pr.IVALDO and Giselda for more support and encouragement.
- Keep praying for clarity regarding our future ministry location with quilombola communities.
- We continue to pray for our next trip to South Sudan, hopefully in **early March**. Please join us in prayer as we discern God’s will.
- Hannah is still recovering from a series of infections. Pray that we would all be 100% well and rested during our travels. Also for quick adaption as we transition between cultures, time zones and climates!
- In a close election, Bishop Justin Badi was chosen as the next archbishop & Primate of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. Please pray for Justin and the church. More info here: <http://www.anglicannews.org/features/2018/01/bishop-of-maridi-elected-to-lead-the-province-of-the-episcopal-church-of-south-sudan.aspx>

But then at other times we wish the UK cherished babies like Brazilians do. We go to the bank or supermarket knowing that we will be able to go in the priority queue. Last month Rita developed a fever, then an alarming rash over her head and body. We were relieved that we could walk straight into the emergency SUS (the Brazilian NHS' A&E), and be seen and diagnosed within 5 minutes by a doctor who said 'You don't need to say anything. I know exactly what she has, but go on' just by looking at her. (It was Roseola, and went away on its own after a few days. Babies get it in the UK too.)

I ask for your prayers as I juggle my ministry as a mum with church responsibilities. It is easy to judge ourselves by how productive we are each day. There are some days when the most 'productive' thing I do is pray. That is probably true for many parents, with or without the formal title of 'missionary'. I'm learning that parenthood, like marriage, is a means of sanctification. That God has blessed us with Rita, but also uses her to teach us more about his unconditional love, patience, generosity, and goodness. When it's hard to find local support (that we can absolutely depend on at the time and in the form that will really help) we look to each other and we look to God.

A few other things to mention

Things slow down in January, a holiday period in Brazil. We used the opportunity to rest. Some regular ministry continued. We wrote a bible study series for CADI on the armour of God. In a context where armed violence is growing and aggressive weapons are status symbols, it's interesting that God's armour is mainly defensive, enabling us to stand firm in times of trial. Tim continues to preach regularly, & disciple an older man. Supporting Ivaldo & Giselda is a big part of our ministry. They have had a tough time lately with low attendances at church during holidays, some leaving the church, and changes afoot in their denomination.

Our time in the UK (2 weeks if we all go to South Sudan) won't give us the chance to catch up with as many of you as we'd like. So sending you Brazilian hugs wherever you are.

Love & solidarity,
Hannah, Tim and Rita



Above: Sunset in Gaibu. No filter.

Below: Our lovely, sociable little girl



Above: Church.

Below: Pr. Ivaldo is very up on liturgical colours!



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