

Reporting live from Picarras, Brazil - March 17th, 2013.

Hello to family and friends, (and fans of Tyler)!

We are thankful for our safe arrival to Picarras after 6 flights including a layover at the Igauçu Falls. God did amazing work there - it really is one of the 7 natural wonders of the world! Rudy and Elsie greeted us at the airport in Florinopolous and we then enjoyed a well needed night's sleep.

Sunday morning we discussed the evening service while we chowed down on Elsie's delicious crepes.

Just before the service started tonight, we handed out the photos that Art & Deb took on their missions trip in December. The people were appreciative and emotional seeing these photos. By quarter after seven there were 21 people in the service, including us! We sang together in both English and Portuguese while Kathy attempted to play the keyboard (Deb EF- you know what I mean). Vic introduced the team, brought greetings from River of Life, and gave encouraging words to Rudy, Elsie and the rest of the congregation. Rudy gave the message from Philippians 2:1-5 and shared how River of Life and the business community of Chilliwack/Abbotsford gave towards this missions project.

Tomorrow's plans are for construction to begin on Fatima's house. We have just learned that roofing materials have been donated from a business in Curitiba and will arrive tomorrow via a trucking company that has donated the transporting costs. Praise God!

Love from windy Picarras - Kathy

Monday March 18 2013

Our day started off a little earlier than we were anticipating. Wendy got a knock at our door where the land lady, Denise, was standing with a phone. Apparently, the truck driver from Curitiba was already in Picarras having spent the night at the truck stop with our load. We quickly made our way to the job site to unload the roof panels. Rudy spoke with the driver and found him to be a Christian. He wished us well on our project.

Introductions were made at the site. Cleverson gave me a tour of the work that Art, Debbie, Danica and Lucas had done. The plan was to remove the entire roof of Fatima's house and replace it with one that actually keeps water out. We formed an assembly line removing tiles. The wood structure holding up the tiles was in very poor shape. Termites had destroyed most of the boards. The wood was sorted into two piles. One for scrap and the other to reuse.

We actually got a lot done today. The entire roof is now off. Tarps are covering Fatima's belongings which is good because it started raining this evening.

The work was hard and we were all filthy by quitting time. Cleverson is both mute and dumb but communicating with him is easier than with someone who speaks just Portuguese. Anderson his twelve year old son is very friendly. He wants to help with whatever we're doing. He connected especially with Tyler and took him across the back field to the skate board park. Anderson is also Kathy's new favorite kid. He was guessing people's ages and guessed Kathy's age was 32. Larissa and Aissa are four year old twin girls that are so cute.

Cleverson's sister also lives on the property with her family. The whole property is just a city lot but there are a lot of people living there.

We got together at Rudy and Elsie's house again for supper. Here we planned for the next day and had our devotions. (this is a special and important time for our team)

If we can ask all of you to pray for us as a team. We are trying to show God's love in this community. Tyler is also not feeling great... so please pray for his speedy recovery. Rob is experiencing trouble accessing his bank and even reaching anyone there to correct it. Finally we also ask that you pray for the future of this church. There are still lots of questions.

Thanks for reading Vic

Good night for now.

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

We woke up this morning to rain and wondered how Fatima's house fared overnight. They had covered everything with tarps but most things were wet and the ground was getting rather muddy. Cleverson is a hard worker and had added a row of bricks overnight and even done some more work on his house before we arrived.

We were introduced to Cleverson's brother whose name is Alexandro. He's the second youngest son of Fatima and has lived a rough life. He was diagnosed with HIV, but recently has come to the Lord. Rudy had a great conversation with him today and Alexandro shared some of his testimony. He said that during a church service while a children's song was being played, he felt God move through him and heal him. Then he went to the doctor where it was confirmed that he was now free of HIV! He also shared with Rudy his calling to ministry and his aim is to begin studying theology. Alexandro shared his desire to be a blessing to his mom because of all the grief he had caused her in the past. God assured him in a vision that he would bring a blessing to his mother but he wouldn't do it alone. There would be group of strange white people that speak a foreign language coming to bring a blessing to his mom Fatima. It only occurred to Alexandro this morning that this strange group of people (us) were now fulfilling this vision. We are humbled and in awe that we are part of God's work!

Thank you for your prayers. The banking issue is solved. Tyler is still suffering with stomach issues so please continue to pray for a quick recovery.

Love from the Brazil team.



Two Worlds of Transport Meet



Carly with Cleverson & Jandira's Twins



Freshly Painted Church
March 20/13 Wednesday

Well we are having tropical rain storms none stop. Half of our team headed to the job site and half stayed with Elsie today. Upon arrival to the job site there was water damage to personal belongings due to rain. (what little personal property they have) Rudy had arranged a truck and driver to haul away all our demolition materials. The big concrete water tank had to come down today. (It was up in the attic) Ropes and boards and a hoe was all that was required to remove the 400-500 lb tank. (a little man power also) It was removed without damage.

We really didn't get much done on the roof due to the weather. So we moved back to work on the ceiling panels in Cleverson and Jandira's house. We finished the kitchen and put in a light that was donated by the local hardware store. (unexpected contribution)

So you can get a picture in your mind. The lot is about 50 by 60 ft. There are about 15 people, 4 generations living on the property.

Carly, Tyler and Elsie & I stayed back and prepared craft stuff for the kids in the evening service tonight. Unfortunately the service was cancelled due to rain. (How often does that happen in Greendale) We also arranged crafts for the women's meeting for tomorrow and got the resurrection eggs ready. Tyler is back on his feet and we are ready to hit the job site again tomorrow. A little extra prayer from you guys to stop the rain would really be appreciated.

After pizza and devotions it's time for a quick game of rummikub. (Elsie says she doesn't cheat) She says I'm a mean daughter in-law. (ha ha)

More tomorrow!

Love Wendy & Gang.

Thursday, March 21st -

Prayers were answered as we awoke to sunshine and a great day for working at the construction site. Progress was made on the roof and hopefully with another dry day tomorrow, the roof should be completed.

The family is very grateful for the work being done but it is not easy on them to have us all take up their personal space.

In the afternoon we had a women's devotion/craft time here at the church. Elsie was expecting two ladies to show up and we were thrilled that six women came with four children - the room was full. Two ladies had come for the first time (one was from the construction site!) Elsie led a short devotional, Wendy and Kathy gave brief testimonies and we showed them a new craft that they had never done before. The afternoon was topped off with coffee and a delicious dessert.

Food hampers were picked up later in the afternoon and we will start distributing them on Saturday.

Tudo bem (everything is fine)
the Brazil team

MARCH 22 2013

Good evening from Picarass. We had a long hot day at work today. We tried to get to the job site a little earlier than the other days. Our goal today was to get the front half of Fatima's roof finished.

In the morning our team worked on completing the support structure for the roof while Cleverson and Alexandro continued laying bricks. The challenge for us is to figure out in what order we need to do things in preparation for the roof panels. The next house (ha ha) will be much easier.

Tyler has a new amigo in Anderson. Anderson is very happy to see Tyler each morning. At one point in the day we found Tyler and Anderson drawing pictures in Anderson's room. Anderson managed to skip two days of school to hang out with Tyler this week. Aissa and Larissa spend much of their day following and playing with Carly. Kathy, Wendy, Elsie, Carly and Rudy went shopping this morning for a new corner cabinet for Jandira's house. We removed one from her kitchen when we installed her ceiling, and found it to be full of termites.

In the afternoon we started installing the panels. The panels are basically 1m x 2.5m. It takes two panels to span the length of one half of the house. The first two panels were installed and then reinstalled again and again. After much gesturing and many words in English and Portuguese we all agreed where those panels should go. After that things went pretty smooth. By about 5:30 we had all 18 panels on the front of the building.

Cleverson and couple of his brothers hope to get the panels on the back of the house tomorrow.

Kathy and Elsie took the opportunity to explain our team t-shirts to Jandira and Anderson. We also met Fatima at the job site for the first time as she seems to usually work long hours.

We have felt a real sense of urgency to get Fatima's house dry. The first few days were so wet that we tried to spend as much time as possible at the job site.

Tonight we got together for supper ,devotions and planning for the next day.

Tomorrow we hope to finally get down to the praia (beach)

Goodnight for now, Vic

Saturday, March 23, 2013

We awoke to another sunny day and thank God for that!

Unfortunately Tyler had a rough night so time was spent this morning at a walk in clinic hoping to get a prescription to help him out. Now by this evening he seems to be recovering once again.

We had the privilege of handing out food hampers this morning to several families and along with the groceries we gave bibles, devotional books, children bible pamphlets and canadian pencils. The recipient families were Fatima, Jandira, Katie and Jandira`s sister.

This sister lives on the hill above Jandira and Cleverson`s house with her ill husband and 3 children. With his small disability pension the family is very tight on money so she really appreciated the food hamper we gave her. We prayed for her before we left. It seems that everywhere we turn there is a need or sad story.

Another highlight of the morning was handing out the bibles and children`s pamphlets to people on the street around Jandira`s house. Wendy also prayed for a lady who was having difficulty accepting God`s grace and forgiveness. The lady was very moved and thankful.

After lunch we got ready for the children`s program that Elsie has been doing on Saturday afternoons at the church. We really didn`t know how many children would come and we were pleasantly surprised, when by 2:30, there were 25 people, not including the team members! The first activity for the kids was to look for easter eggs that we had hidden around the church property. Once these eggs were collected Elsie translated the Resurrection Egg Story to them. Each of the 12 eggs has a symbol in it that represents the story of Christ`s last week on earth. Then a water balloon game was played and you can guess that most everyone got wet somehow - especially Tyler and Anderson!

The next activity was making salvation bracelets where each bead`s different colour tells the story of salvation. Elsie lead some them in some singing and the afternoon ended with everyone having some popcorn and juice. Everyone seemed to have a good time and went home happy. By this time we were tired (the same way we feel after a morning of VBS!).

Hope to add some pictures here soon so you can get a better idea of what we are doing. Thank you for your continued prayers!

Blessings to you all, the Brazil team



katie's family



street ministry



children's program



Anderson`s new friend

March 24/2013 Palm Sunday

Well you know it's been a good work week when our family of 4 uses a whole bar of soap. Today is Sunday and we are relaxing by sleeping in for the 1st time. Tyler and I were up at our normal Brazilian time of 6:30am and we could here the Krahn's snoring next door. haha!!

Tyler started his day writing his testimony for Wed. and I was reading from Philippians 4. Verses 12 & 13 sums up a lot, it says. "I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether it be a full stomach or hunger, plenty or want; for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power."

So with a relaxing morning we headed to Nina & Cleusa's (Mayra's Grandma & Mom's) house for lunch. We all were very spoiled with a wonderful meal and lots of laughter. Nina's sister Lolo was there and she is a real card. The running joke was if the food was good it was made by Nina and if it was bad it was made by Lolo. haha!

After lunch we went beach hunting and the kids picked a place for baptism.

We drove past the work site to say we would pick them up for church due to rain and the roof has been completed. The electrical is being worked on and the ends of the roof will be the next to fill in with brick.

After lunch Pastor Freidbert arrived from Curitiba. He arrived for a meeting with Rudy, Rob and Vic and also to preach the sermon this evening. In Curitiba the 8 Churches have finished their 30 days of prayer for the Picarras Church. During this time a name of a possible couple came up and they have been approached. We will know by the end of the week what their response is. At the service we all participated in the Rag Man drama skit and Rob gave his testimony. We have had many sermons on Philippians at home in Greendale. Rudy & Elsie have been doing a series on Philippians also. And without any knowledge of this Pastor Freidbert also spoke on it as well.

Amazing!! We had a wonderful turn out of 34 people for the service. During the sermon we had a craft time for the kids and it was a blast.

Vic drove 15 people home after the service in our rental vehicle the Doblo which seats 7 people. Fun times were had by all. For the next couple of days we will be out and about for a little fun taking a break from the work site. Not sure when we will be back on the blog but we won't forget about you.

Obragado Wendy :)

(and little bit of Carly)

Monday - Wednesday recap:

We're back.....the internet stores were closed last night when we wanted to blog so here we are now. We took some personal time at Camberio and had a blast flying down their zip line and checking out the Brazilian culture.

We've been able to distribute some more food and hygiene hampers over these last few days. One was to a lady named Tanya who Vic and Wendy helped ten years ago when they were here. They noticed that she looked alot healthier than previously so it was good to see her and say hi.

Wednesday morning was another great demolition time on Fatima's bathroom wall so that her bedroom could be bigger. Pieces of tile, concrete and brick were flying as we all had our chance to smash the wall with a meager hammer. No sledge hammer to be found here!

With team ministry funds Vic had purchased hearing aid batteries in town for Cleverson's hearing aid. Cleverson and Jandira had been told that the batteries were not available here in Picarras. It was neat to witness him picking up the sounds around him now that it was working again.

Later we handed out more food hampers to relatives of Sonja's (her mom, sister and cousin) along with bibles, devotion books and children materials. Again each family had a story to tell of hardship and despair. We prayed for them and hoped that our love gift would help to encourage them.

It was at Wednesday night's church service that Carly, Tyler and Jessica gave their testimonies before their baptisms on Friday. It was disappointing to see that only a few church members came to support them. Hearing testimonies is always special so we were glad to be witnesses of that. Later Carly, Wendy and Kathy took the two children who had come out to do a craft.

After the service we all were invited to Pastor Valdenais, Vera and Victor's house for a snack and pizza. Vera had bought 2 pizza's for us and they were the biggest pizzas we had ever seen.....each about a meter across! A good visit was had by all.

Thursday, March 28th -

Another sunny day in Picarras and Carly's 15th birthday! Back to the job site where Rudy had rented another truck for us to load all the garbage from the demo of Fatima's house. What a load that was! It took most of the morning to get the yard cleaned up and then take it all off the truck at the dumpsite. Between a live rat and a dead dog we had seen enough for one day!

Another cool story - Rudy Janzen's grand daughter Marissa back in BC had a recent birthday party and she had decided on her own to ask her friends to give money instead of birthday gifts. At this party she collected \$200.00. We were asked to find a special use for this money. We decided to purchase beds for Jandira's twin girls as they had been sleeping on gross foamies on the ground. Yesterday these twin beds were delivered and the girls were really excited this morning to show us their new beds. Thank you to Marissa for your selfless gift that has brought smiles to two little Brazilian girls!

After lunch the ladies got ready for the weekly ladies gathering. Wendy had purchased some nice cloth bags back home and the ladies were able to decorate them with flowers or fabric paint. The plan is to sell them sometime over the next few weeks at a church bazaar with the money going to the church. The turnout this week wasn't as large as last week but the 3 who came had a good time.

Please pray for the next team that is enroute as we type. We are looking forward to seeing them but especially our gathering at the ocean tomorrow late afternoon for the baptisms. The plan is to have the bus that is going to the airport transport the folks here from church to the beach since most of them don't have vehicles. It should be a really Good Friday!

Kathy on behalf of the team

Sat, Mar 30

Today is the first post from team 3. Our travel went off without a hitch and we arrived just in time to attend the baptism of Tyler, Carley and Jessica. What an amazing service at the beach and later at the church. While my head was still spinning from a day of travelling and a night spent trying to sleep on the airplane I felt very proud and humbled to be attending the baptism of my niece and nephew while my dad performed the service. What a blessing to be able to add that to the many great memories I have of Picarras. I know that team 2 was typing up a blog post yesterday that ended up being lost due to lousy internet connection. Hopefully they will post one more time when they reach a place with internet.

This morning started with an early wake up (8am local, 4am in my head) in order to say goodbye to Rob, Kathy, Vic, Wendy, Tyler and Carly. After another round of hugs and best wishes they headed to the airport while I went back to bed only to be awoken 2 hours later to the great news of "coffee is ready". I want to go on the official record and say that Carrie is the best coffee maker in the world. We spent the morning relaxing at our apartment waiting for 1:30 to arrive because we were running the Saturday Kids church program since Rudy and Elsie were at the

airport dropping off team 2. Fortunately we had help in that Jessica would be there to help and Rudy Janzen was there to translate. We had 6 kids plus our own which made for a great afternoon. We started with playing some games and colouring. Once we waited the appropriate time to allow for anyone coming late, I started by reading the story of David and Goliath.....actually Rudy started by reading it in portuguese and then I read it in english. I have to be honest and say I did paraphrase some of the story since I figured the kids could be spared some of the gross details. I closed by tying the story into our craft which is called "Gods eye". I assume that Rudy Janzen said the same thing I did only in Portuguese, but whatever he said sounded so much better then my closing. He was such a great asset today with his language skills. He also made a special connection with a little girl who was clinging to his side all afternoon. After the crafts and snacks some water balloons made the rounds and the fight was on. The afternoon ended too soon and we as a team felt so fortunate to be part of this simple little program today.

Tonight will consist of Pizza and discussion/planning of the coming week. Last night team 2 gave us an update and their thoughts on our time here. With that and with Rudy and Elsie's input we hope to be able to find ways to use our time here as best possible.

Tomorrow we will relax and attend the evening church service. Monday we plan to hit the ground running and do the good work God has prepared in advance for us to do. Stay tuned.

Rob

Sunday, Mar 31

Grace and peace from sunny Picarras, we had an enjoyable day of rest and worship.

Aly special requested crepes from Grandma, and we all got to enjoy this special treat for breakfast this morning. Once the cleanup crew was finished dishes (thank you Chelsea, Danielle, Aly and Maddy) we had a Easter egg hunt for the kids, and us adults too! Thank you Elsie for thinking of doing an Easter egg hunt, the kids loved it, us big kids too!!!!

As we were hunting for eggs, the neighbor was leaning over the fence, I called out Bom dia (feeling great that I remembered how to say Good Morning), he replied "Good Morning" LOL! Rudy conversed with him, asking him about his food situation, and he said not so good, so Rudy and the men went over with a food hamper and learned his story. He was a journalist, and had a stroke and is not recovering from it well. He attends an Evangelical free church, but commented how he thought of coming over but had a few excuses why he hadn't yet. Well tonite at the church service he showed up and enjoyed it and said he should have come sooner!

Around noon we headed up to Cleverson and Jandira's home to meet them and see what has been done already at their home. The twin girls took to Natalie, recognizing that she is a possible playmate, they enticed her with one of their Easter chocolates, then hand in hand Natalie and Aiessa toured the house with the rest of us! The place looks wonderful and the family was so welcoming and eager to spend time with us!!!

In the afternoon, since it was Sunday, we had some time of rest and fun at the beach! The kids enjoyed playing in the sand and finding shells and hermit crabs! Oh to be a child again, me personally I was dodging crabs in the water, at least I thought I was. The white people are now a little more pink and some even red, but it was a nice time.

The evening church service was well attended, we had around 30 people including ourselves. The Canadian kids showed off their singing skills by singing 2 songs from VBS, one of them

being "Christ arose" and then the congregation sang it in Portuguese afterwards. Aly played "Beautiful One" on the piano during the offering, she did very well! After a few more songs, I got to share my testimony. Afterwards I got encouragement from Fatima, giving me the passage of Psalms 23, and then shared some of her story, she was healed from lung cancer, which she was sent home to die from. Then later on she was healed of heart problems. There is much more to the story, incredible encouragement!

Debbie and I took the kids out of the service when Rudy spoke, and did the God's eye craft with them, and Natalie suggested coloring too, which went over well. The kids played tag and chase, language is not an issue, playing is a universal language!

What a wonderful 2nd day!

Shalom,

Carrie

Monday April 1st, 2013

Hello from Hot and Sunny Picarras!

Today we started and finished the day celebrating Princess Natalie's 4th Birthday! Poor girl had to wait till after dinner to open her presents but I think the wait was well worth it. Elsie made a delicious spaghetti dinner for the birthday girl and we had some yummy cake too.

Most of today was spent shopping for different things. Carrie and Debbie went and bought some special things for a 11 year old girl who is Sonja's niece. This girls Mom got remarried and now feels the girl doesn't fit into the family so the Mom shipped her off to her Grandma's place. Can you imagine? The previous team shared with us about her and how broken they were about this. It's been on all our hearts to help her in some special way, so we made up a special package for her with felts, pencil crayons and other goodies that we plan to take to her tomorrow to hopefully make her feel important. Breaks my heart hearing that a mom could just ship her daughter off. Our kids are in disbelief that a mom would do that.

Before lunch Elsie stayed back with our kids and Rudy took Rob, Deb, Steve and Carrie over to Cleverson's. He needed to do some stucco work before we could do more work there, so we went to see if this was done, which it wasn't so there was no real work for us to do. Rudy did some measuring of things so he could go order more supplies.

Jandira was trying to brush the girls hair and they wanted nothing to do with it so Carrie offered to do it and one of them let her do it and stoof there so perfectly. Jandira was trying to put their hair up so I asked if I could put it in braids. Right away she said yes but before I started she told Rudy that one of the girls had Lice yesterday but they treated it. I wasn't bothered by it so I started to braid her hair, right away I could see the nits. Not bad but they were there. I moved onto the next girls hair and her hair was full of nits. I realized Holden must have had Lice last month to prepare me for this, because I was not grossed out at all. It really didn't bother me one bit. Which really took me by surprise. The song All things happen for a reason came to mind.

After lunch Carrie, Elsie and Debbie went shopping for a kitchen table and chairs for Jandira and Cleverson. We found this really nice table that folds in half when your not using it, which is perfect as they don't have a ton of space. It will be delivered in the next day or two.

Later in the afternoon Rob stayed back at the church house with the kids as well as Victor who

came by to play with the kids. The rest of us went back to Cleverson's house and hauled bricks from the street into their property, even Larissa and Aiessa helped.

From there we went to Mayra's Grandma's store to buy items to make food and hygiene hampers. We bought so much stuff that the car would bottom out and the headlights were pointing into the trees. The kids had a lot of fun shorting it into piles and making a list of items. They were pretending they owned their own store. Tomorrow when the guys go to work at the house the kids and ladies will make up the hampers to be handed out later in the day.

We are convinced that we brought all the mosquito's from Canada to Picarras. As I am typing this my legs are being eaten alive. Poor Riley could play connect the dots on himself with all his bites. :)

Boa Noite!

Debbie and the rest of Team 3

April 2, 2013

Greetings from River of Life Brasil.

Today was another good day of trying to uncover God's will for our lives, or at least for the day. We got to Cleverson's house in the morning hoping to clear the space for the new kitchen at Fatima's house. Cleverson and Sr. Ruggy started marking out the foundations, then the younger brother Alexandro came to help. We then got to witness the longest foundation marking I have ever seen. It seems that a deaf and mute person can argue quite well with his brother. Rob and I cleared out some junk and removed a retaining wall. Rob is really good at breaking shovels. Table and chairs arrived, today one of the twins was sitting at the table watching Scooby Doo. Good use of it already.

While the men marked out foundations and argued methods, the ladies and kids made up food hampers, the kids got to play store. Cleverson's son Anderson came and played with the kids too. After lunch Carrie, Debbie, Aly, Maddy, and Danielle, came to the house. They painted primer on the concrete walls of the hall and kitchen. The paint smelled like sewer, I thought that the painters had filled their pants but they insisted it was the paint, I am still not sure. Before painting we had to move boxes of tiles and bags of concrete out of the hall. When I asked where to put the bags of concrete, Jandira moved the pillow off Anderson's bed and we put the bags where the pillow was. Not sure how Anderson will sleep tonight with bags of concrete for a pillow. By the end of the day there was lots of paint on the walls, a bit on the floor, and a bit on the kids and wives. Jandira seemed very grateful and helped out in painting.

While painting the kids made friends with the twin girls, Larissa and Haissa. One is good at whisting, the other at making funny faces, both are good at smiling and being cute.

The afternoon was very rainy, felt similar to Chilliwack, because of this we did not hand out any food hampers or toys, but we have plans to that tommorrow.

Looking forward to another great day tomorrow.

Steve

April 3, 2013

Today we gave out food hampers, my group was Grandma Elsie, Dad (Rob), Mom (Deb), Me, Danielle and Holden. First we went to this house. A guys house was just a shack and happened to have cancer in his leg. His shack was really poor. Next we went to Cleverson's house. We gave them the biggest hamper, because they are the people we are helping. Cleverson's twins are sooooo cute!!! After that we went to Jandera's sister. I forgot her name. When we gave her the food hamper, Anderson came with us. Her husband has mental problems. Jandera's sister couldn't work because she has to give him his medicine. Her husband sleeps in a bed. He also looks dead. The Government pays for his medicine.

We tried to see the 11 year old girl but she was in school. She probably goes to school in the afternoon. We saw her mom at her Grandma's house. We also saw Sonja's mom on the same road.

Tchau, (chow)

Aly

We handed out food hampers. It was not just that, but we got to know some people and listen to thier stories. One man had leg cancer. I prayed for him. It made me feel bad the way thier problems are just striving to survive and are paying thier fees, while our problems are as pathetic as " I can't find my iPod charger".

The next house we went to was Jandera and Cleverson's. They were the people that we were mainly helping. They have a son, 12 years old, and twin daughters, 4 years old. We prayed with them and moved on to Anderson's (the 12 year old) aunt. She was in a horrible situation. She had three kids and a husband with a mental disease. She couldn't have a job because she needed to stay home with her husband.

After that we went to visit a girl who had been given to her grandmother and a family of orphans who lived with an old lady . It was a touching yet rainy, wet dramatic day.

Danielle

Today it was raining really hard and the drying rack turned into a wetting rack, haha! We went to the church for lunch then left for handing out food hampers. We went to the house supported by tree roots, we got invited in and met the family. They had a fire in the stove. The next house was Cleverson's house, in the bed room Cleverson had ripped off all the tile on the floor, slicing his foot in the process. Later we went down the road that Sonja's sisters and mom lived. I handed one little girl a pencil and she imeddiately at the eraser on the end.

Always and Forever,

Maddy

We thought it would be a neat idea to get the perspective of some of the kids, as you can see the hampers made a huge impact. Unfortunately it was very wet today, making our street ministry delayed for another day, as everyone hides away when it's raining like this. At least we were able to deliver 5 hampers, bibles and devotionals and pray with each home we entered. The kids got to hand pencils and stickers to a bunch of other kids on one of the streets.

We had Wednesday nite service at 7, 5 other adults and 3 kids joined us. Steve shared his testimony, Steve and Aly played "Beautiful One" on the piano and guitar while the rest of the kids sang. Aly also played for offering again, she did a great job, watch for her on the upcoming

worship teams!!!!

Debbie and Carrie took the kids out for "Sunday school" focusing on God's promise by retelling the Noah's Ark story, with Rudy Janzen interpreting for us!

Keep us in your prayers, maybe praying for no more rain, it is really hard to get things done during it.

Carrie

April 4, 2013

Greetings from Brasil.

Today was one of those days that as a member of a missions team you shake your head at how God works sometimes. But first thanks to all that prayed for the rain to stop because we had a dry day upto 6:30 or so as the clouds rolled in. As I type this we can see big lighting strikes up in the mountains and rain has begun to come down. Hopefully the weather tomorrow will cooperated once again as we have lots to do.

We started this morning with taking some gifts and food to 11 year old Alexandra and her brother. These are the two children that have been left at their grandma's because their mother has a new husband and no room for these two. As we rolled up to their house Elsie went in and asked for her. As is fairly common in these extremely poor homes there are many generations of people living in the house that may or may not be related so sometimes we are not sure who is family and who isn't. There were some men there who indicated they were a grandfather and a great grandfather although to me they both appeared to be the same age. Anyway we gave Alexandra some special gifts for her and a soccer ball to her brother. Alexandra was pretty quiet but the longer we stayed and played with the ball the more she started interacting with us. We saw quite a few smiles out of her and really enjoyed our time. It was cut short by her afternoon school time coming up so we promised to return tomorrow morning and spend more time playing. As team 2 mentioned this one street is loaded with kids so we hope to do street ministry tomorrow and hand out another 7 food hampers.

In the afternoon the women of the area (8 women and 5 babies and 4 kids) plus the Canadians gathered for crocheting, bible study, Debbie's testimony, crying and laughter. While Rudy F. ran around dropping off invites to our construction partners inviting them to the church on Saturday for our appreciating dinner, Rudy Janzen, Steve and I decided to "free style" for the afternoon. For those of you that watch American Pickers you will know what this means. Basically it means heading out to see what you find. In our case we had some glasses we wanted to drop off and we loaded food in the trunk of the car just in case. Our "free styling" was quickly directed by God which was what we had hoped for but let me first back up.

Yesterday when we were out delivering food and praying with those in need we went out in the 2 cars. The one family that has the husband with the mental illness lives on top of a hill with a road that is just wide enough for a small car. When we came near to this house the city work crews decided it would be best to plow the road after one of the wettest days ever. I just made it to the top in the little black Ford before a front end loader and a huge plow went down. The second car stayed at the bottom while we went in and prayed for Valderini. Well Rudy J., Steve, Carrie and a few kids stopped on the side of the road to wait. Well it turns out they stopped in front of a bar and while waiting one patron who had been there way too long asked what they were doing.

Once explained and after handing out a bible and tract some how it was discovered this gentleman needed eye glasses. It was explained we would return another day with glasses. Well this afternoon that was what Rudy J., Steve and I wanted to do. After that our plan was to drive to the house Rudy J. was staying at and get some ice cream and see some of the country side. But instead we went to a bar and picked up a woman.....but I will explain.

As we stopped at the bar looking for the patron who needed glasses the owner came out instead. After explaining what we wanted to do he mentioned that he needed glasses as well. We gave a pair to try and with tears forming in his eyes he said they were perfect and asked how much. We obviously said there was no cost and he was so thankful. He said thank you in German so Steve and I threw back a few german words at him that made him smile. He said he would take us to the home of the man we came to see originally which was just up the road. As we were about to walk away the wife of the bar owner came and said she knew what we were doing and knew of a lady that was in desperate need of food. We had not mentioned anything about food hampers yet so we assume she heard it through the neighbourhood. We listened to her tell us of a lady who just lost her 6 year old child to a traffic accident. Incidentally we had already heard of this lady from team 2 but were not sure how to make contact or exactly where she lived. The bar owner's wife said she would come with us in the car and show us the way. Rudy J. asked the husband if this was ok (which it was) and we told her we would pick her up after dropping off the other pair of glasses. So off we went with the glasses to find the original person needing eye wear. We found him but unfortunately they did not help him at all. So we said goodbye and went back to the bar to pick up the woman. Rudy J. promised the bar owner/husband that we would bring her back and he told Rudy he could take her to Canada if need be but Rudy quickly declined saying Irene would not approve. We had a great laugh and drove off to find this woman who recently lost her child. Steve and I recognized the shack we stopped at from 2 years ago but it turns out this lady lived in a shack attached to a shack, attached to a shack way in the back. The bar owners wife took us to the back and explained (as if part of our missions team) why we were here and what he had for her. I don't understand Portuguese but I stood there in amazement as we were being led by this woman who just knew we were there to help. Rudy J. also offered words of encouragement and handed a bible and tract out as well. The mother didn't say much (who blames her) but as we were leaving Rudy J. overheard her say how needed this hamper of food was. We walked back to the car where the bar owners wife said she would walk home instead of driving with us. We thanked her, she thanked us as she walked home. Before team 2 left Vic mentioned that an email was received from Pastor Steven that we should not be afraid to step out of our comfort zone since that is when God can do a lot of good work. While I agree I just never figured it would involve going to a bar with my friends and leaving with a strange woman while being on a missions trip.

The evening ended with a huge feast put on by Nina, Lolo and Cleusa which was thoroughly enjoyed by all especially our children.

Continue to pray for our team but especially for Rudy and Elsie as they need to work through what their plans are for the immediate future with the church in Picarras. To date no word has been received from the conference about a possible replacement although we know contact has been made with a couple. Also pray for our appreciating dinner being planned for Saturday. We have invited all the construction partners we have used over the last 6 months. As well all the church members are being invited to hopefully show everyone just what God has been doing the last few months in Picarras.

Bon noite.
Roberto

April 5th, 2013

Well after a massive 4 hour thunder storm last night we woke up to not a cloud in sight and the sun shinning down on us. We thought it rained a lot in Chilliwack, I don't think any of us have ever seen rain like that before. Our joke today was that people back home must have prayed too hard for sunshine. It was a hot one today but we welcomed it after all the rain. Thank you for your prayers.

Yesterday we had promised Alexandra (the 12 yr old girl who was sent to live with ther Grandma) and her brother that we would come back to play. Once we all made it to church we loaded up hampers, Bibles, devotionals, salvation bracelets and a bunch of toys for the kids, we headed over there.

When we pulled onto their road we didn't see any kids but once we parked and got out of the car the kids came out of the wood work (literally). We handed out pencils, skipping ropes and bubbles and the kids were so excited. Our kids played with the kids blowing bubbles and jumping rope. Eventually Alexandra's brother brought out the soccer ball we gave him yesterday and the guys played a little Canada vs Brasil. I will let you guess at who won.

Carrie and I met a lady who had adopted a little girl who is now 5. The girls mom died at the age of 23 of a heart attack and the dad is a drug addict and not in the picture. This lady has had her since she was a baby and also has 4 of her own children. We offered the lady some words of encouragement and that she is a blessing to this little girl. Before we left we gave the family a food hamper.

We handed out the Salvation bracelets, I explained what all the colours meant while Rudy Janzen translated. Some of the kids disapeared as I talked and came back when they knew they would get something but Alexandra's brother stood there hanging on every word. As soon as he got his bracelet I saw him run over to a couple ladies and explain what the coloured beads represented. He came back to me and asked what the white bead was for. I explained that Jesus washes away our sin's and cleanes us of them. He ran back to the ladies and kept on explaining the rest. Next thing I know is he runs into his house and comes back out with a school book he wants me to see. Turned out it was a catacism book and he wanted to show me pictures of people being baptised and Jesus ascending to Heaven. Later he asked Rob for a Bible which we gladly gave him.

This whole road just seemed like one sad story after another. There was a little boy about 5 or 6 who had throat cancer. The story we were told is that the boys Dad is a alcoholic and is abusive to the boy so he is only aloud home on the weekend. The boys Cancer seems to be in remission but he is still walking around with the trache in his throat. The Mom needs to take a week off of work for him to get the surgery and to be with him for recovery, but because the dad isn't reliable she can't afford to take the time off. Seems so wrong and unfair.

By the time we had left the road we had given out 8 hampers and lots of Bibles and devotionals. We actually ran out of Bibles and had to go back and get more and then ran out again. Amazing! We left there barely touching the surface and knowing there were more families that could be blessed with a hamper.

Tomorrow we have "Saturday School" and we were told that alot of the kids on that road plan to

be there. Please pray that those kids will come and that their hearts will be open to what we have to say.

In the evening we have planned a "Appreciation" pizza and dessert evening for all the people that have been involved in our projects over the last 6 months. These people include people from the hardware store where supplies have been purchased, painters, electricians, the landlord of the Apartments we stay at, etc. As well as Church members. We could have up to 50 people. Please pray for this evening.

The last few days we have really gotten to know Rudy Janzen and as of today there are now 2 Grandpa Rudy's. The kids (and parents too) have really taken to Rudy and the feeling is mutual. Sorry Callie and Marissa you now have to share your Grandpa with 7 other kids.

Thanks again for all your prayers, we can really feel it. Please continue to pray that we will be lead by God and seek his will.

As I type this Steve is playing dust pan hockey with a Cockroach. :)

Till next time!

Debbie

April 6, 2013

What a wonderful day! It started with sunshine after a good nights rest. Rudy, Steve, Riley, Chelsea and I went to Nina's grocery store to shop for food for the hampers. Riley and Chelsea took control and picked everything out, missing only 2 items on our list of about 20 items, they loved it, and us adults stood back and watched. When we got back to the church Steve, Rob and the 2 kids put the hampers together, while we got the rest of the team from the apartments.

Once we were all together and fed, we prepared for the afternoon "saturday school". We had 10 children join us for the afternoon. We had a fun lesson learning about the tower of babel, they spoke Portuguese Danielle said something in french, Chelsea spoke English Steve spoke German, it hit home with the lesson. It reminds me also about when I was on the street the other day with a bunch of kids and one of them asked Rudy why I spoke so funny! The men then played some "sunday school picnic games" with the kids, they were a hit! After snack we did a craft then ended with a water balloon fight! We had so much fun with the kids!

Tonight we also had our appreciation pizza dinner. We had a great turn out, at least 40 local people showed up. 10 pizzas. The pizza here is different than at home, these are about 2ft+ across, loaded with toppings. One had hickory sticks, like the chip things, for toppings, another had scrambled eggs. Rudy showed his appreciation to the locals and some of the locals told their appreciation for the love shown to the community. The kids were the live entertainment and sang a couple songs and Aly played a song on the keyboard. Many relationships were formed and existing ones were strengthened. Our landlord, Monsier, (person we rent our apartments from) and his wife Denise and their son all came as well.

The highlight of my day is an announcement by Madelyne and Danielle that they both intend to be baptized. Madelyne wants to be baptized here in Brasil on Wednesday, so you can pray for no shark attack. We will record the baptism and show it to friends and family at home so no need to fret. Danielle wants to be baptized at home. Great news! I feel very proud of my children.

This was written by Carrie, then she got too tired and was finished by Steve.

Apr 7, 2013

Today we had a bit of fun at an amusement park. - Aly

Danielle and I shared our testimonies this evening, though I am the only one getting baptized here in Brazil. In Sunday school Anderson (Jandira's son) asked about Baptism and how old you need to be and some other things, sounds like he wants to become baptized sometime. - Maddy

At the service this evening, Paula and Sonja sang a song for us. During Sunday school my mom told the story Shadrach, Meshack and Abendigo. Rudy Janzen translated it. After that we played groupo (a game), which is someone says a number and whatever number they said the group would have to get into a group of that number. For example, 3 you would have to get in a group of 3. - Aly

As you can see by the kids blog entry, we had a day of rest which we spent going to Beto Carrero World, we had fun experiencing the rides, checking out animals at the zoo and taking pictures at every corner!

The church service started around 7pm, we felt that there was a good turnout, there was 19 locals! The girls shared their testimony which touched some people, they were also surprised that the girls had written it themselves.

We are all extremely tired and hope to share more tomorrow! Good night! Oh and thank you for your prayers.

Carrie

PS - Maddy will be baptized Tuesday morning, please keep her in your prayers!

April 8, 2013

Greetings from the South American office of River of Life Church.

We are just finishing up our evening debrief that is typically accompanied by refreshments.

Today it became evident that our time is drawing to a close and there are more things that need completion than we have time remaining. With this in mind we are trying to prioritize as best possible but it feels a little chaotic.

This morning after coffee Rudy J., Steve, Carrie, and a few kids went back to the street we have spent most of our time to drop off another two food baskets. While this was going on Rudy F., Debbie, myself and the remaining children went to Cleverson's house to see what where things stood. Cleverson has been really busy. We showed up to see the master bedroom complete except for paint on the walls. Cleverson was busy installing tile in the kitchen and the hallway and to say he knows what he is doing would be an understatement. In between working on his own house he also managed to install the foundation for Fatima's house. While he has not been working much to earn money he has been making great progress on his house.

While back at the church for lunch Rudy received a call from Curitiba. At first we hoped that it would be the conference with news about the replacement pastoral couple but it was not. Instead a family from Curitiba called to say they were renovating their beach front apartment in Camboriu and that if we wanted some of the furniture and goods we could have them. So with that the two Rudy's and Elsie jumped in the car to take a look with the caveat being we need to pick up the goods by Wednesday morning. So our remaining time in Brazil just got a little busier yet.

In the afternoon Debbie and I went to Clerverson's and primed the master bedroom. Jandira helped and their twins played on the bed teasing Debbie and I while we worked. We had a good time even though our communication was lots of jesting and guessing at various words. Next time I promise to learn more Portuguese before I come down.

So tomorrow is the big day for Maddy and I personally can't wait for the occasion I am really happy for her making the decision and can already see how my children are impacted by her in such a positive way. Way to go.

Good night for now.

Rob

April 9th, 2013

Oh Happy day!

Last night we had some thunder showers again and rain, so we all prayed for sun today. We woke up to a nice sunny day! Praise the Lord!!

We loaded up the bus and went to the church to pick up any church members. Unfortunately Sr. Frietas and Cleusa were the only church members who came. Both Jessica and Jandira had wanted to come but never showed up. But we didn't let that hamper the joyous occasion.

We headed to the beach where Ty and Carly were baptized. Its amazing how much all the rain storms have changed the beach. It was still such a beautiful location for a Baptism. Pastor Rudy had a short, powerful and emotional message and then Steve read 1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe." and also 2 Timothy 2:15 " Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." Both so perfect! Then I had the pleasure of praying for Maddy. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect time at the Ocean. God sure knew what he was doing when he created the earth, the back drop for the Baptism was unbelievable.

This afternoon the guys went to the apartment in Camboriu that Rob mentioned yesterday. They took down and disassembled some things. Tomorrow they are renting a truck to go and pick everything up. Good news Lorne, there is a foot washer and we decided you should have it, so check your mail for it! :)

As our time is coming to a close soon I can't help but think how awesome this trip has been even without all the work/help we have done. The trip started with my niece and nephew being baptized and ended with Maddy being baptized; who is not only special to my kids but to both Rob and I. If that was the only reason to come to Brasil it was definitely worth it! But I know there have been SO many blessings that we have been a part of both on the receiving end and on the giving end.

Oh and Team 3 wants to send out big birthday wishes to Team 2 members Wendy and Rob K. as well as Team 2010 member Laura. Hope you all enjoy your special day!

Boa Noite from Brasil!

Deb

April 10, 2013

Please pray for this rain to stop. It is raining so much that in 3 hrs our 5 gallon garbage can has been filled with rain water. We can't do anything in this rain, so we are stuck at the apartment. The men are in Camboriu working at disassembling and bringing back items to Picarras. Carrie and I are doing laundry but we have a feeling we will be bringing home damp if not wet clothes or better yet our men will be wearing wet underwear on the plane ride home. :)

This rain is really unbelievable, I've never seen anything like it. Pray hard for it to stop so we can make the most of our last day and a half. There is still so much we need/want to do before we head home.

Thanks in advance for your prayers!

Deb, Carrie and the kids!

April 18th, 2013

We tried to post a blog before we left but due to the poor internet connection in Brasil it didn't post.

Thank you for praying for the rain to stop, we could tell when people started to pray. The rain let up and we got some sunshine. Our clothes were able to dry enough to bring home (only to be washed again due to musty smells) and we made it to the airport without a hitch.

Since we have been home we have seen God continuing to work in Picarras. Below is some emails that Rudy and Elsie sent the team. God is SO Good!!

(april 15th)

We had a great attendance at the service yesterday evening, 32 people. Among them 5 new people, one family came from Penha. They asked for a food hamper. Dad said to come on Wednesday and we would have one for them.

This morning there was a lot of activity on the empty lot behind our house, where the big palm tree is. 3 people were working there to clear the lot. Dad went over to the fence and got to talk to one of the men, who said he was from that road where the team helped with the many hampers, and he had received one too. He and his family live at the third house, a green one with a very poor appearance he said. So it was good to talk with him, Dad invited them to come to church. Friedbert sent us an e-mail, saying again that a group from their church wants to come for a weekend, do evangelism, serve with music and message as well. We think that to be great, let them come!

Weather was beautiful today, much cooler in the morning, but with a clear sky all day.

(April 16)

Good morning to all of you:

It's a beautiful day again, much cooler, sunny with a tremendous beautiful blue sky!

This morning Rudy and I were wondering about our promised heavenly home. I said to Rudy, it's virtually no concept to me, how to imagine this, a home in heaven! Why would that be? we asked ourselves. Is it because we have comfortable homes here? We talked, that even as children, we never worried about a home. At least in my case, where ever Mom and Dad moved us to (I remember 1 big move), it was ok, for they had things under control. Rudy also said he had never worried as a child, even though he and his family had to run for their lives.

Maybe that is the answer: not to worry, for our Lord Jesus told us, He had things under control

Ok., I wanted to let you know about our visit this morning to Valdirene's . We asked her once more about the condition of her husband. So this is some of what she told us: He is diabetic, that is why he needs the daily injections. Occasionally he gets to be interned in a hospital in Florianopolis, stays there a couple of months at a time, but coming home he doesn't want to take his medication because he feels so much better, (one hears that frequently from people who suffer from Skitsofreniah,) We dropped the double food-hampers off, one of the boys helped Rudy bring them up from the car, and soon excitedly he and his sister had found the toothbrushes and said: "this is mine". The boy's name is Leo and the girls name is Viviane Vitoria , the girls name was given because her mom said at her birth, she had 3 heart failures, but she pleaded with God to let her live for the sake of her children. The name Viviane comes from " life" and Vitoria of course means victory, so there we have it : Victorious Life! I found that precious. Valdirene also said that she still had some food left from the last hamper we gave her.

We asked her how much she owed at the grocery store where they always mark their shoppings, she said there was about a debt of \$ 200.00. We took Leo with us to the grocery store and it turned out to be \$ 290.00 Reais. Rudy said all small quantities, that means it had not been paid off for a long time. So in front of Rudy and Leo the man crossed out the whole debt. it's paid off. While Rudy and Leo were inside the grocery store, I started a conversation with Viviane Vitoria, asked her where she went to school and she right away told me, that the girls in her school did not like her, there was only one girl who was friends with her. I could tell this was very hard on her. She said, ever since she had changed to this school, some had started to whisper about her. I said I would pray for her to get more friends. Do you think, your children would help me pray? Thanks so much for all the e-mails this morning , also yesterday on Rudy's birthday. Love you all, Elsie and Rudy

Ps Please pray for Jessica, she had a difficult week after her baptism.

(April 17)

Tonight, again we had a good number of people at the service, some repeat from the new people who came from Penha, and also a family whom the team helped with a food hamper who live on the road close to the catholic church. There were about 5 people who were first comers .So again we had 26 people at the service , among them Jessica had about 7 kids to take out and do something special with them (I helped a bit too).

During the service Sonia came to me and said that Paola wanted to accept salvation tonight! So that was a surprise! Who would have thought that the revival would start with a child?!

I was wondering how in the world we would do justice to everything tonight, for we had planned also to celebrate Rudy's birthday after the service. I had ordered a cake and the members also had brought food for this occasion. So after the service I said to Sonia, that we would first celebrate the birthday and then we would take time with Paola. That's what we did. Once almost everybody was gone, Cleusa and I took Paola into the house . Guess what brought this on? The testimonies of our young people who were baptised here recently. The fact, that in their testimonies they said that at a very young age they had accepted Jesus, made her want to do it too. I found it particularly meaningful, that one day past her 8th birthday, she chose Jesus as her Savior. May she follow Him now as much as she understands what this means, into her new year of life!

A special blessing to the 4 young people who shared Christ here recently
Elsie and Rudy