

Dear friends,

To be honest, my brain is tired, life is busy, and writing this is no easy task right now. But it seems as if the more we just live life, the busier it gets. We love being parents, we love having people over and spending time with them, but these are quite exhausting and time-consuming. It can be hard to create a flexible yet consistent schedule, and we are still working on it. How much time do we spend talking with people versus sitting in our office to review and categorize the Portuguese that we are learning? Then, we have to fit this in around our life as a family with two precious daughters who need to be taken care of and disciplined. Oh, and a baby coming... soon! (End of March). It isn't easy, but it is fulfilling when we do it with the Lord and for the Lord. We cannot allow our busyness to interrupt our time with God or for it to block our focus on Him. We find it can be hard to maintain consistency, but time with the Lord is absolutely irreplaceable. At times, I feel like Peter walking on the water to Jesus. The moment he looked away from Jesus, he saw the waves and fear set in, and he immediately began to sink. When we take our focus off of the Lord, we begin to sink. Thankfully, our Lord is right there to grab us.

Sorry for the ramble, but this is life and what we are learning. Now for the "what we are doing?". We have started our classes back up again and have been helping two new American couples, here to learn Portuguese, settle in. We are also preparing bit by bit for our little Judah's arrival. Thankfully, we are healthy and happy to be home as we do classes, figure out a workable schedule, and learn more about the missionary works already going on and where/with what people group we can work long-term. We are also coming to terms with the reality that we probably won't make our goal of finishing the Portuguese and culture program by August. It's looking more like finishing by the end of the year is a more realistic goal for us. This is hard for us, but we trust that the Lord's timing is best and that He has a lot to teach us in those extra months!

Thanks for your support and prayers! As always, please let us know your prayer requests or praises!

Here are ours!

Praises:

- The results from our evaluations are helping us in our studies
- Health and being home from traveling
- Mommy and baby are doing well so far

Prayer Requests:

- Preparation for baby Judah's arrival and prayers for a safe delivery
- Wisdom regarding future ministry location/people group

- Clear minds/effective learning of language and culture and God's timing for our completion
- Wisdom/faithfulness to a good family routine in the midst of a busy semester, with the Lord always at the center.

All for His glory,  
Joanna for the Goddards  
1 Thess. 5:16-18