

February, 2008

The Hunters

united with

Living Water Teaching



Building People for God's Glory



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the difficulty in and expense of mailing our newsletters from Brazil to our partners, we will be sending them electronically. Please email us with your preferred email address for receiving your copy of our future newsletters. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you do not have an email address yet. In this case, we will attempt to get newsletters to you in an alternate manner, though this may take much longer. If you have access to the internet, you may also view our newsletters

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Brazil: A Place to Call Home

A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

— Prov. 16:9 NKJV

Though our original game plan was to live in the city of Praia Grande, we wanted to stay open to hear the voice of God. Upon our arrival on Saturday (Feb. 2nd), we were welcomed into the home of our friends, Paulo and Fatima. We occupied their pool



Paulo & Fatima

house (a bedroom and bath) until the following Thursday. It was a blessing, but the mosquitoes were outrageous.

They helped us to find a one-bedroom apartment that we are renting on a month-to-

month basis. It happened to be right across the street from their home! This worked out fine since we did not want to intrude upon them any more than necessary, but they were close by if we needed them. Though our new place is very small, it allows us privacy and flexibility in our search for a more permanent place.

As the days went on, we began to feel God leading us to move to the city of Santos. The wisdom of our decision was confirmed with the realization of several things:

- 1) The most reliable means of receiving our mail is in Santos,
- 2) The only local branch of our U.S. bank is in Santos,
- 3) Praia Grande is a tourist city which overcrowds on weekends causing the only road into the city to become heavily congested, and



Entrance to Praia Grande

finally

- 4) Santos doesn't have a mosquito problem!

That's all I needed to know! Where's the apartment locator?!!!

Now 3 weeks later, we are still searching for our ideal mosquito-free apartment in the city of Santos – which by the way is translated "holy ones" or "saints". We will keep you updated as we figure out which of the more than eight major areas of Santos we land.



Ordering lunch at diner in Praia Grande

**BRAZIL:
Point of Interest**

"Over 4 million cars in Brazil are now running on gasohol instead of petrol. Gasohol is a fuel made from sugar cane. This accounts for more than 30% of Brazil's automobile fuels."

— From Wikipedia

An Insider Look At Carnaval

During the first few days after getting to Brazil, we couldn't do very much in terms of finding a place to live due to the fact that Carnaval was going on. Every business that wasn't tourist related shut down. In a way, it was all good: It was as if God was forcing us to just relax after the long, hard struggle of just getting here. We went for long exploratory walks throughout the city and on the very crowded beach and just soaked up our environment. It also gave us an opportunity to see Brazil at its least spiritual state.

The Brazilian Carnival ("Carnaval" in Portuguese) is an annual festival in Brazil held 40 days before Easter and just before Lent. During Lent, Roman Catholics are supposed to abstain from all bodily pleasures, including music, alcohol, sex, and the consump-

tion of meat. The carnival can thus be considered an act of farewell to the pleasures of the flesh. Basically it can be viewed as an "over-consumption" in preparation for a "fast" of sorts.

Since the late 19th century, groups of people now known as blocos (blocks) would parade through the streets playing music and dancing. Today they dress in costumes (often very scantily) or special t-shirts according to certain themes. Blocos are generally associated with escolas de samba (samba schools), or particular neighborhoods or suburbs and include both a percussion or music group and an entourage of revelers. Oftentimes streets are closed to car traffic. In Rio, they usually start in January and last until the end of Carnival, so from the beginning of the year you can see a



group of people dancing samba in any street of Rio on the weekends and then during Carnival every day. In Sao Paulo, the carnival culminates with an announcement of the "winning" samba school of the competition. This year's winner has won for the past 6 years. Once it was all over, all of the tourists left and our little city settled down to what it typically will be for most of the year.

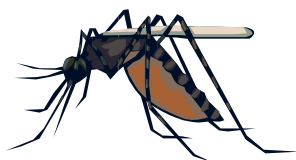
Making Adjustments

It's the small things that we miss . . . peanut butter, our favorite cereals, going to the library, having the rest of our clothes, and having a space bubble -- okay, and a few larger items like internet, a washer and dryer, and a car. By far, our largest challenge (other than the mosquitoes which happen to be at the new place as well) is making it without the use of a washing machine. We have the funds to buy one, but we do not want to have the machine delivered, and then have to move it once we find our new place. So, even

though it seems quite primitive, we are hand washing our clothes. That isn't as bad as I thought it might be, but it takes forever for them to dry due to the hot, damp humidity which we had noticed upon our arrival. The fact that the clothesline is inside the apartment doesn't help much either!

That humidity is not a lot of fun for my hair either. Add to that the fact that I was already in terrible need of a relaxer -- I didn't have space in my two suitcases

to bring any -- and you can imagine the picture. I believe I won the title of "most consecutive bad hair days in a one-month period". I finally bought a perm kit, but was scared to apply it just in case there was a difference from the ones I purchase in the states (you see, I couldn't understand the instructions!). I was at the point of just cutting it all off when I decided to just go ahead and use the kit. Some things are worth the risk; and besides, I couldn't go on looking the way I did.



An Alternative Means of Transportation

Praise the Lord! After many days of walking, God has blessed us with some new wheels! Larry and I walked downtown and returned with a brand new set of sparkling red bikes! Both have racks on the back; but while mine is one-speed, Larry's has 18 speeds. That's okay though, because mine has a basket in the front



for carting my many purchases – i.e. groceries.

It had been a dream of Larry's for many years that we would live in Brazil and have matching bikes which we would ride on the cyclovias (a network of narrow roadways complete with signs, lines, and stop lights which is designed strictly for cyclists). That dream is now reality!

First Ministry Opportunity

Within the first week of living in Brazil, our first preaching engagement was presented to us. We ministered on a Sunday evening in a packed church which was small by American Standards, but average to the Brazilian population. It was a missionary service and Larry's message was about giving 100% of your life to God's purposes and His plans for

your life (Mark 10:29). At the close of the message, the pastor was the first to get up and respond to the altar call.

We found tremendous favor with the pastor as well as the congregation. The people were captivated not only by the Word preached, but also by our "Americanism". The pastor insisted that we sing a portion of a praise and worship song in English. Now you know! Neither of us has been gifted with a singing talent. We finally relented though when it became apparent that there was no way of escaping it. Oh well, they asked for it. They seemed to enjoy our efforts (unless it was the



“The pastor insisted that we sing...”

comedy of it all as we both pushed the mic from one to the other).

Out of that evening came a very precious friendship with an English speaking couple, a friendship which we feel will develop over the years to come. It turns out that we have much in common and enjoy many of the same ministries from the United States. Justin is from Ireland and is married to Raquel who is Brazilian. It's really interesting how God brings people together from all over the world to accomplish his good pleasure.



Who Are the Hunters?

Larry and Deborah Hunter have a heart to reach the hurting. Through foreign missionary experiences spanning more than 14 years, they have touched the lives of countless individuals and people groups.

Their ministry has taken them throughout the United



**Missionaries
Larry & Deborah Hunter**

States, as well as ten countries within Central & South America and Africa. Having lived in Guatemala and Honduras, along with their children, they know what it takes to do "real" missions.

As Larry and Deborah head Living Water Teaching — Brazil, they work in confidence knowing that their God is truly with them.

If you would like to partner with the Hunters financially on a monthly basis or even just to sow a special seed, please submit your gift along with the contributions form located on this page to Living Water Teaching. You will be blessed as you participate in the process of "going and making disciples" as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19 (NIV).

CONTRIBUTIONS

As a partner, I am a part of the ministry that God placed in the Hunters' hearts of equipping the believer for greater success and victory according to God's Word. My partnership enables Larry & Deborah to advance the kingdom of God in Brazil.

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