

the LISBON

focus

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Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support! We are happy to share with you how God is working in our lives. We hope that this report is as encouraging to you as it is to us! God bless!

MISSIONS FULL CIRCLE

We are so pleased by the results of the missions conference *Igreja Baptista de Queijas* hosted in June. Our small church of about 25 people currently supports 3 missionary families – one in Brazil, one in Greece, and one in Portugal. By the end of our conference, we nearly doubled our missions commitment and our ability to take on new missionaries. Praise God for the intricate plan He made for His church and how it propels forward!



If it's not one thing, it's another...

We often wish we were omniscient and could understand the reasons behind all of the things that happen in our lives, but in the meantime, we try to act and react in faith and watch it grow by the things He allows us to go through.

We landed in Springfield, MO the end of June 2012 ready for some much-needed rest and a break from constant struggle and opposition and we were excited to be back in the land where one U.S. dollar equals one dollar. Before our arrival we purchased an Excursion to pull our travel trailer with. Our friends picked us up at the airport in it and on the way home, we had a blow-out. If

you have followed our ministry for very long, you know this is "typical us." We shrugged it off and continued on our way.

We drove the truck for three weeks without any problem before pulling our camper for the first time. We set out on our first trip to visit the many churches in our full schedule and within 10 miles, the truck overheated. We safely got to a Ford dealership at which they did a series of things that cost money and sent us on our way. About 10 miles down the road, it overheated. At the next Ford dealership, they replaced the parts the last Ford dealership had ruined and sent us on our way. It overheated. We took it back to that shop, complaining it wasn't fixed. They fixed something else. It overheated. We drove through the night to make it to a mechanic we knew and trusted and overheated off and on the whole way. He did what he knew to do and still it overheated. This pattern repeated itself, NINE times.

Since we spent a great deal of time in prayer asking God to lead us to just the right vehicle and felt 100% confident that this was it, we found it difficult to understand this situation. Financially, it was devastating. Practically, it was very frustrating. Spiritually, it was very discouraging. We asked questions like, "Why does God let things like this happen to people that are just trying to serve Him?" or "What lesson are we supposed to be learning from this so we can hurry up and learn it and get this over with?"

We were humbled as church after church sent in the money to cover the costs of the repairs. They must know how important a reliable vehicle is to a missionary. God reminded us of His faithfulness and the very wide "safety net" He has placed under us with our network of loving, support churches. We had to stop "grieving" over the "waste of money" and realize that this is, after all, God's money and He can spend it as He wishes.

Not until this week, after one final repair, did we make an entire trip without overheating and we believe the problem is finally solved. We pray *fervently before* and *thankfully after* each trip. These more serious car problems put our flat tires into perspective and make us thankful for them in light of the other things that could go wrong (which is good because there have been more flat tires since ☺).

Thank you to those who have sacrificially sent to provide for our needs and those who have protected and encouraged us with your prayers. We feel them and we are so grateful!

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