

# the LISBON

focus

Volume 5: Issue 6

December 2012

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!

## THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

With only 4 weeks until the end of our furlough, we are counting down the days – Avery especially as she is missing her grandparents and her plastic dress-up high heels that were too bulky for back-and-forth travel. She speaks of Portugal often, though we haven't been able to "practice Portuguese" with her as we planned while we have been in the states. As it turns out, she refuses to speak to us in Portuguese and if we do say something, she says, "Stop talking like a chicken!" This is interesting because she does understand what we are saying. We know this because she will do what we have said. The other night a 4 year old little



boy said to HER, "Stop talking like a chicken," and with a shocked look on her face she replied, "Falas Português?" (Do you speak Portuguese?) Our plan is to put her in a Portuguese preschool a couple of days each week when we return. We would appreciate your prayers for God's orchestration in choosing the right one for the contacts we will make and for her furtherance in the language.

## DEALS ON WHEELS

Since our last prayer letter we have raised another 30% of our goal for a new ministry van. This puts us a little over halfway there. What we are finding in the current economy is that our fund-raising is going much slower than projects we have done in the past. Churches who gave \$1000 before are now giving \$500 or churches who gave \$500 are now giving \$250. We have a winter youth camp on February 10<sup>th</sup>, and would love for the funds to be available by then. Once we receive all of the funds that have been committed, we will have a better idea how much more we need.

If your church has already given and you are nearing the end of your fiscal year and are looking to disperse a few more dollars from your mission account, would you consider giving again? A special thank you to those who have contributed.

The other thing that needs to happen before we are able to purchase the van is for the Excursion that we have used on furlough to sell. (We will be putting the money from that towards the purchase of the van). Please pray that it would sell before we leave on January 15<sup>th</sup>.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our Christmas tree will look a little different this year than usual. We have a felt tree with felt ornaments that it is able to travel with us. This reminds me of my family's first Christmas in Portugal many years ago when my Mom cut a tree out of wrapping paper and taped it to the wall and pushed a few gifts up to (or "under") it ☺. One plus is: these felt ornaments are not breakable – perfect for toddlers to arrange and rearrange. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas!



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