

October 2011 **PRAYER** Letter

Steve and Buffy White

CP 36, CEP 78195-000, Chapada dos Guimarães - MT, BRASIL

Phone: 011-55-65-9282-5715 email: sbwhite@samlink.org

Dear Faithful **PRAYING** Friends,

This quarter I've been teaching Numbers to Joshua using the "Oral Teaching" approach. No writing, all oral teaching and storytelling. Fortunately these books lend themselves easily to telling stories. Moses and Joshua are stirring Bible characters. A colleague suggested that we divide our huge freshman class into two sections. (Why didn't we think of that before?) That was a lifesaver! At 28, it is by far the largest freshman class we've ever had. Our Portuguese teacher made the division for us, separating the stronger Portuguese students from those who needed to go slower. Here they are by tribe/language:



Group B Arara, Kuikuro, Culina, Parakanã, Xavante, → and Rikbaksta. 15 languages in all.

← Group A Wanano, Bororo, Kadiweu, Suruí, Aikanã, Dâw, Kaiuwa, Kamayurá, and Bakairi.



We learned 12 stories by heart from Numbers to Joshua 6, plus gained experience in how to craft an oral story from the Bible text, in the strong Portuguese class. And we learned five stories in the class of those newer to Portuguese, and all but one PASSED! I had an interesting challenge that I wasn't expecting with my "advanced" class. The weaker students were struggling mightily to learn. But maybe because it was easy, the advanced class became lazy, not trying, and doing poorly. So one day we had a little talk. I asked them if they knew any unsaved folks back at home who couldn't read. Of course they all did. So we talked about how those people would ever learn the truths of the Bible if no one ever told them the stories. We talked about the power of God's word and how Isaiah 55:11 says "My Word (my stories) will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire." We talked about 2 Corinthians 4:7 and how we're just fragile vessels that carry a powerful message, so that God will get the glory. And we talked about what will happen to those folks back home if they never put their trust in Christ. They became quiet for a while, and we moved on. They started doing better after that.

Fourth quarter I'll have the much smaller 2nd year class for the Epistles of Peter, John, and Jude. There are just three second-year students! (from mega to mini) There will be a lot more one-on-one interaction as we explore these rich Bible letters. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open our hearts to His teaching in this last quarter of the year.

Buffy is having an interesting time with her CCA-MK classes. With furlough schedules, there are just four students here this year, but each one is in a different year and each has his own full set of classes. Buffy is teaching 11th grade World History and World Lit, and 9th grade English and Geography. Yes, that's four different classes to prepare for each day. She also takes care of all the administrative details. American tribe →



Now I'm going to have to write about something that no missionary ever wants to write about. You guessed it: money. Six months after we returned to Brazil, our health insurance rates skyrocketed. They went from \$635/month to \$1,160/month. OUCH.... Our monthly giving has been rock steady (*thank you*) at our former support level. Which means our support account has been steadily sliding toward the **RED**. We're still in the **BLACK** but just barely. SAM will carry us for a while in the **RED**, but if it continues that way, they'll call us home to raise more support. We understand, we follow the news, so we know about the economic situation in the States. We also know well, after 17 years of missionary service, that our work and our support are in God's hands, so we are not worried. But we wanted to let you know what's going on and to ask you to pray, and if God leads you to increase your giving for our support, we bless you and may God bless you. 'Nuf said.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise:

- * For good Ammi classes this quarter, even with the new approach and the oral curriculum.
- * For far fewer fires during our dry season this year. The air is free of smoke!

Pray:

- * That our financial support will increase enough to cover our health insurance costs.
- * For the Ammi ministry trips to Indian villages in October. For good experiences and open hearts.
- * And for an MK teacher to replace Buffy for the 2012-13 school year when we will be away on home assignment.

Tchau and blessings,

Steve & Buffy



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1021 Maxwell Mill Rd., Suite B
Fort Mill, SC 29708
Phone: 803-802-8580
www.southamericamission.org