

February 2011

*Dear friends,*

Hope this letter finds you well.

Firstly thank you for all your lovely cards and emails on the arrival of baby Max. He is a delightful sociable little chap and is growing so fast.



Max didn't arrive on his due date which enabled me to be bridesmaid to my sister and help her on the morning of her wedding. It was a truly beautiful day, Susanna and Nick were an



inspiration to all. I think one of my highlight moments was their first dance at the reception where they did a waltz with their electric wheelchairs.

Max finally arrived 10 days later on the 19<sup>th</sup> January at 1.52pm weighing 8lb 10. It was a long labour and I was disappointed to end up with an emergency caesarian. To my surprise it has been very hard to establish breastfeeding; it is something I have been advocating in my health talks for years. As a result I have been undergoing a steep learning curve thanks to the charity La Leche League and various health professionals. I even found myself on a health visitor and midwives breastfeeding training day with Max; there had been a last minute cancellation and the leader offered me a place for free, to support my work in Brazil.



Efraim returned to Brazil at the beginning of February when Max was two and a half weeks old. It was terribly hard for us all to have to separate, we thank God for Skype and have great amusement watching Max engage with the conversations online. Max and I will be leaving for Brazil on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, after our six week post-natal check.

Efraim has been having a challenging time in Brazil, the tenants in our Recife flat have refused to vacate the property, so he has had to chase up

an eviction order and find us temporary accommodation. At the same time the money we had set aside to buy the car has been stolen with a cloned card, so Efraim has been resolving this with the bank. All on top of his busy new job role.

Whilst in the UK we made a trip to the CMS office in Oxford to discuss the possibilities of Efraim joining CMS. Please pray for us as we and CMS discern whether this is the right step forward. I am excited about returning to work in Recife, it will be a lot easier for me to manage there with Max compared to Porto Alegre. I am not sure yet which areas of work/ministry I will get back involved with, and hope to start some new things up. I look forward to sharing with you as things develop over the coming months. Thanks again for all your support and prayers.

Love and God Bless

*Ruth, Efraim and Max*

**Praise:**

- Safe arrival of Max, and for his excellent health
- An amazing wedding for my sister and brother-in-law. That I was able to finally attend, and for all the wonderful help and support from members of my Dad's church which helped make the day possible.

**Prayer:**

- A good flight for Max and I (overnight on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March), and for good adjustment to the new climate.
- For Efraim as he sorts things out in Brazil, and that we can move back into our home ASAP.
- For my health post-caesarian and with establishing feeding Max, that I am disciplined in not over-doing things.

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