

Link Letter No.4 October 2011

Dear praying friends,

Rev Marcus, Tamara and Rebekah Throup (Joao Pessoa – Brazil) say ‘oi!’

‘Oi’ is ‘hi’ in Portuguese, so oi to all our friends and supporters!

In August we returned to Brazil after a visit to the UK. I (Marcus) was working on my doctorate – a part time PhD in New Testament via the University of Nottingham. So far, so good, praise God! Highlights included the Tyndale New Testament conference, the CMS People in Mission Conference, and catching up with family – many of whom had not met Rebekah who is now 18 months old and a bit of a handful! Rebekah’s little brother, Mateus Jacob, is due to arrive at the end of January 2012, so please pray for a safe delivery and particularly for

One of the youth group (Alex is on the far right)



Marcus and Tamara Throup
CMS mission partners
Brazil

Tamara who is reckoning with the tiredness of pregnancy on top of the tiredness which comes from being the primary carer for a non-stop toddler!

Since touching down in Brazil I have been reminded of the old adage that the aim of a mission partner should be to do oneself out of a job. Training students who will be tomorrow’s clergy is one way in which I see myself honouring the brief – this term I’m lecturing on Anglicanism (*not as boring as it might sound to some!*) and next year I’ll be doing a series in Recife on preaching.

On Wednesday nights at the Cathedral, I’m taking folks through ‘James,’ and about 30 are coming along which is not bad for a midweek meeting. Next month will see the launch of my second book in Portuguese which deals with a range of issues on Brazilian Christianity. In connection with the book, I’ve also been invited to give some guest lectures in a Lutheran Theological College in Curitiba (down South) next February, so next year’s diary is beginning to see some action.

Again, in the light of the old adage, I have been encouraged that the Lord is preparing Alex to help me with the youth work at church. Alex

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is 30 or so, and has been a member of the Cathedral since childhood. He has a heart for the work with young people and is multi-talented – he plays the guitar and sings, prepares and leads excellent Bible studies, and is full of good creative ideas. Steadily I'm encouraging him to use his gifts as he takes on more of the leadership of the group. I'm not certain of the time frame yet, but at some point in the coming year I hope to be able to hand over the leader's role to Alex.

About Brazil – *did you know?*

- (1) If you think you have problems with traffic jams, the average Paulistano (resident of Sao Paulo) spends one month in a year, stuck in traffic!
- (2) Brazil (again) has topped the world charts for homicides – over 43,000 murders so far this year – (our city, however, is one of the less violent ones, and we feel safe and blessed here).
- (3) With phenomenal economic growth in our region, the northeast, Great Britain is now actively seeking to improve trade and commerce links with Brazil.

Prayer points

- For Tamara, for physical energy looking after Marcus and Rebekah while pregnant
- For Rebekah – thank the Lord for our beautiful daughter and pray she may continue to be healthy and vibrant
- For Marcus' PhD studies, now entering the third year; pray especially for resources which are hard to come by in Brazil (even the internet doesn't solve all the problems!)
- For the youth group at the Cathedral and for Alex's development as a leader under Marcus' guidance
- For the Cathedral's evangelism and social outreach into



Rebekah

impoverished neighbouring communities under Dean Raimundo's leadership

- For Marcus' teaching and the training of leaders and clergy in our region

We thank our great God for your partnership with us in the gospel.

Marcus, Tamara, Rebekah.

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