

Dear friends

Feliz Natal (Merry Christmas) e Feliz Ano Novo (and Happy New Year)!

Try a Brazilian Christmas:

- a temperature of 35C (95F)
- little commercialization: you might see an occasional Santa Claus zipping along on a hang glider
- the children's excitement builds as Christmas trees (*all fake*) and Christmas lights appear
- Christmas songs are practiced (some in English—*We Weesh You a Merry Creemas!*)
- friends ask friends if they've completed their wish list

All these bring happy memories of Christmas celebrations and remind us of the reason we celebrate this time of year... the birth of Jesus.

We are celebrating this Christmas in Campo Bom, Brazil, without visitors or immediate family. I keep asking myself, "What kind of Christmas traditions are important to start in our young family so our little ones have positive memories to give to their children?" I'd love some input... especially since we are limited by the weather!

I'm also reminded of the newest COL children who will experience Christmas in a new way and in a loving family setting... perhaps for the first time. I pray this will be a memorable experience—one in which they can identify Jesus as being integral. Recently, Estefani and Andriele came to COL to join younger siblings Maria Eduarda and Cesar. Estefani told a house mother they are happy now because they wouldn't have to go to bed hungry. I pray they will soon understand they are very special and that they can find their physical *and* spiritual needs met through God working through their house parents' lives.

We had the privilege of hosting visitors for the last half of November. Praise God that visas arrived and friendships were strengthened and begun during this busy time. Much painting and sewing was completed in the tech center; crafts and scrapbooking were enjoyed by many (it's always great to see the creativity of our children). Many eyes were tested and diagnosed and there was an outreach ministry in a poor neighborhood where our church, Good News Baptist Church, is helping a church plant to develop. Fifty people were checked by an eye doctor in about five hours and many pairs of glasses and sunglasses were given to those who could not afford buy their own. After such ministry opportunities I am *so* blessed and *so* thankful I have received the medical attention we need. Elizabeth came on this ministry outreach and helped where she could!



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

—*Luke 2:14*

To view the Special Project List for Brazil

visit:
www.nabconference.org
home page and then click the Special Projects button on the right side.

Praise & Prayer

Requests

- Pray that our newer COL children will see Jesus being glorified this Christmas.
- Pray that contacts and relationships started through the ministry outreach will grow and develop.
- Praise: progress has been made in finding experienced and passionate people to serve on the COL board.
- Praise: the first board meeting was encouraging and successful.
- Praise: We thank God for friendships which were strengthened and for the encouragement we received from our visitors.