

January 15, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

We passed out many Christmas tracts, and four neighbor children came over to make gingerbread houses and hear the Christmas story on December 20th.

Our Christmas Eve services and lunch along with the New Year's Eve services and get together went well. Please pray for spiritual growth in all of the believers and for the salvation of those who don't know Christ but attend services periodically. We have also been blessed with some visitors in these past weeks. A new Brazilian couple has attended two weeks in a row and is looking for work in the area.

Our church had our annual business meeting and approved the budget and Tom's suggestions for the Sunday school curriculum (2 books) while we are away on furlough. We also thank God for the money we have been able to put aside to purchase our own meeting place in the future and continue to pray that that savings will grow and that God will provide the right building for us in His time.

We haven't heard any more about the construction costs on our apartment building, but our contract shouldn't allow for the extra costs the company is requesting. We continue to hear and see construction going on around us almost daily, which is a good sign (it hasn't stopped plodding ahead).

Tom has scheduled all of our meetings for furlough and has been squaring away other details for our church and apartment and vehicles here and for us while we are in America. He still has more things to organize before we leave, but he is making great progress. I plan to continue (as often as possible) my ladies' Bible studies via zoom while we are gone. I need to check all of the hymns I have recorded for use whenever I'm not present (no one else in our church plays an instrument to accompany singing while we are gone) to make sure they are at the right speed. We have ordered new prayer cards and will be putting together a presentation, etc to use as we travel. The 2 homeschool kids are on track to finish by the end of March, and we have some final paperwork and requests to complete with the public school at the end of January for schooling and exams. Please pray for all of this flux.

My oven/stove stopped working again, but this time, after several hours of work and searching for a part, Tom and a friend were able to repair it.

Tom will be heading to Rome January 18-20 for a church leadership conference. Pray for spiritual growth and fellowship among the leadership and as a result for spiritual fruit in Italy.

Stephanie for Tom, Daniela, Mino, Angelo, & Gabriella

Thank you for your prayers!