

Ben and Dani Jacobs



"He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30

"Firsts, Seconds, Thirds, and even Fourths!"

Let's mention the **"Firsts"** first. ☺ We were able to begin our first Children's Church on Sundays. Our very small kitchen is directly behind the pulpit with walls that don't go to the ceiling, and a curtain for a door. Not a very good fit for Children's Church. But what about our next door neighbor's Pet Shop's garage which is not open on Sunday afternoon? Before we could adequately formulate our request, she was already handing us a copy of the key to the garage and her van which we would have to move! Huge blessing and obstacle overcome. Our next big "First" was our first mid-week church service on Thursday nights. It is a prayer meeting with a Bible study using some excerpts from The Chosen series. Our flat screen TV that was conveniently placed in the prior owner's ice cream ordering window has now been replaced with a screen and video projector! ☺ We have seen fruit already as we have four family groups coming to our church services. Other firsts have been our first church activity which was a Soup Night. We also had our first "Culto no Lar" (Home service at a members house).

We went back for **"Seconds"** with a second VBS during the Brazilian's "winter" break in July. After a picnic field trip finished off our first semester of Bible club, we launched our **second** semester with a **second** VBS. We just did more of the same. Teens from surrounding churches passed out flyers, one of Thiago's supporting church came to help, and Thiago also mounted a speaker on his van and drove around the neighborhood announcing the VBS. The VBS jingle that blasted from the loudspeaker is still in our heads to this day! We had over 50 kids on most of the days, and even had 30 kids with many parents who showed up for our closing program on Sunday afternoon. A packed hall with thirty bouncing kids made for a hectic but blessed service. Our biggest service to date for sure.

"Thirds". Seven churches have made the trek to be a blessing at our 4:00 afternoon service without missing their own services. They are already on their **"third"** round. They have helped by giving salvation testimonies, singing, or just filling in empty seats with fellowship afterwards. This blessing cannot be measured, but I believe it has been more vital than we realize. Soon we will be moving our church services to the evening, thus making it impossible for this blessing to continue.

"Fourths". Getting paperwork approved for construction seems to be a monumental task. We got our church constitution approved, a church SSN, and we were almost finished in joining our three lots. And then there was a blip! A good one. Many of you may remember the big price tag for land. By the end of furlough that was paid off. PTL. We also received a good amount at the end to begin construction. The nagging thought in my head was that this property although pricey was still smaller than the others and would make parking difficult and no room for evangelistic outreaches with sports. So we prayed: "God, if this thought is of you, you need to show us. (You may note, that I did not ask for these funds in any letter to churches. It didn't seem appropriate as the churches had already helped us to achieve the goal for three properties during furlough.) My thoughts were also that I didn't want to use all the funds we have for construction to buy land as we need a meeting place. Many silent months went by. Then God's response flooded in with various gifts, two generous ones with one gift that paid two thirds of a **"fourth"** piece of property. We were able to finalize that purchase just this week!

Serving Him in Brazil,

The **Five** Jacobs, Ben, Dani, Sabrina, Melody, and Josiah.