

# The Atkisson Family Update *From Brasil!*

News for Friends, Family, and Partners

Fall/Winter 2004

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***Por isso não desanimamos. Embora exteriormente estejamos a desgastar-nos, interiormente estamos sendo renovados dia após dia, pois os nossos sofrimentos leves e momentâneos estão produzindo para nós uma glória eterna que pesa mais do que todos eles. Assim, fixamos os olhos, não naquilo que se vê, mas no que não se vê, pois o que se vê é transitório, mas o que não se vê é eterno.***

**2 Corintios 4:16-18**

## Vistos...well, not so fast...

*Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water...* You may recall the ad campaign for the second *Jaws* movie...well, we almost feel like we're in that movie! I know that I told you in our last update that we now are legal to stay; I told you that in good faith, believing it to be true. However, our lawyer **Cirilo** informed me that the Federal Police here filed an appeal to the judge's decision given in our favor earlier this year. The appeal recently went before a three-judge panel in the city of São Paulo and the judges again ruled in our favor! I suppose Cirilo didn't want me to have a heart attack, so he didn't tell me until after the fact...That's the good news-the bad news is that the Federal Police have one more shot at us on another judicial level. Cirilo is not sure that they will pursue this, but it still is a possibility. Although these events have taken place, we are not daunted or dismayed. We will continue with our plans for ministry and press on toward the goal set before us. The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:8 *We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair*; I believe that I am maybe getting a small peek at what he meant. And if I were simply to stop there, I might eventually lose heart, but I read on in the same chapter verses 16-18, *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

## Planos de Viagem

I was recently blessed with the opportunity to return to the States for a few short weeks. The main purpose was to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> MTW Global Missions Conference held in Atlanta, but also to take a little time to visit with Hilary on the campus of Western Carolina Univ. in Cullowhee, NC and to spend some time with my mother in Elizabethtown, KY. Along the way, I was housed, fed, and provided transportation by numerous brothers and sisters in Christ...I cannot begin to thank you enough!

While in Atlanta, I was able to participate in a "pre-conference" session on ministering to street children and then join many other missionaries and church leaders for the missions conference. **Ricardo Agreste** from Comunidade Presbiteriana Chácara Primavera was able to travel up for the conference, and therefore we were able to make several presentations on future joint ministry projects both for Chacara Primavera as well as Igreja Presbiteriana Novo Jerusalem. We were also blessed to talk with numerous people interested in both short and long-term ministry opportunities here in Campinas.



David and Ricardo in front of our Brazil display at the MTW Global Missions Conference in Atlanta, GA

## Notícias de Ministério

I mentioned above about the presentation at the MTW conference of our project ideas...you may recall from our summer newsletter that Chácara Primavera wants us to start a sports ministry outreach for poor children at their new meeting place. Well, that is one project we are developing there. There are also possibilities for construction teams to come and work not only on the sports project, but also in developing a place for the arts center as well as some general construction needs within the church building. At Novo Jerusalem, construction teams can come and join work on the multi-purpose facility being planned. Visiting church groups may also be interested in helping with VBS and doing sports camps with both churches and as an outreach in the neighboring communities.

### ***In Christ Alone***

words & music by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

***In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.***

***This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace.***

***When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.***

***My comforter, my all in all. Here in the love of Christ I stand.***

***In Christ alone, who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless babe.***

***This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.***

***Till on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied; for every sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.***

***There in the ground His body lay; light of the world by darkness slain.***

***Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.***

***And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am His, and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ***

***No guilt in life, no fear in death. This is the power of Christ in me.***

***From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.***

***No power of Hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand. Till He returns, or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I stand.***

### **Discipleship and Outreach Bible Studies**

Lynn and I now have 4 different Bible studies on a weekly basis. **Margarida** continues to grow and blossom in her faith. **Caê** and I are still meeting, and he is growing as well. I have also begun to meet with another friend of Jacob, **Felipe**. He has made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ but has had little exposure to Bible study, so he is eager and anxious to learn. Lynn is giving English lessons to another young man, **Gui** (short for Guilherme pronounced "Ghee"). He has been raised in a practicing Roman Catholic home, but he has had little exposure to the Bible. Lynn began to pray for opportunities, and he approached her and asked if he could study the Bible with us! So, we are now into John's gospel, and he has lots of questions. We are also praying for another young man, **Michel**, and that he would want to begin a study with us.

### **Oração & Louvor**

-Our **visas**

-My mother, **Nona**, underwent spinal surgery in July. She is recovering well, but I would ask for your prayers strength and continued healing. She will undergo another surgery in January for a large stone near her pancreas.

-Please pray for all of our children and their education. **Hilary** is finishing her first semester at Western Carolina U. and will be coming back to Brazil for the Christmas holiday. **Jacob** is taking semester exams at Escola Americana de Campinas. Please pray for him to commit fully to his studies. **Taylor** graduated from middle school at her Brazilian Christian school. We are trying to look for the best option for her entering high school; another Brazilian school or homeschool.

-**Caê** has completed his course to prepare for the large entrance exam and has taken it. He is waiting for his results and is also looking for a job. **Margarida** recently moved from the dilapidated house she was in to a much nicer, but much smaller one. **Caê's** younger sister, **Yasmin**, is showing much more interest in attending church and participating with the youth.

-I am recovering well from my knee arthroscopy and I will be in physical therapy for about 6 months. Please pray for my surgeon, Dr. **Wilson Mello** and his wife. At my invitation, they visited our church recently and seemed to like it very much.

-Please pray for our **financial situation**. With the increases in our children's education costs, additional legal fees, and the declining value of the dollar exchange rate, we are really feeling the "pinch". Our landlord has also recently increased our monthly rent by 25%, so we are trying to look for another place to live. Pray that we would not waver and trust in the Lord's provision and guidance through this time.

-Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us an **unquenchable thirst for the gospel of grace**, and that it would renew our zeal to reach out to others around us.

-We would continue to ask you to pray for **Emerson** (the street boy we were ministering to that has disappeared). There was a recent article in the local Campinas newspaper that stated over 80% of the street population (both children and young adults) in our city are using crack cocaine.

### ***Soli Deo Gloria,***

### **The Atkissons**

**P.S. If you have Internet access, please visit our web page for previous updates and a link to a "picture page" of our life here in Brazil. Our address is:**  
[www.mtwsa.net/people/datkisson.htm](http://www.mtwsa.net/people/datkisson.htm)

**P.S.S. For a humorous look at driving in Brazil, go to:**

[http://www.gringoes.com/articles.asp?ID\\_Noticia=613](http://www.gringoes.com/articles.asp?ID_Noticia=613) "**Driving Ms. Sampa Crazy**"

**(A few translation helps – "Alameda Santos"-a street in São Paulo, "motoboy"-motorcycle delivery driver, "Senna-style getaway"-reference to the late Brazilian Formula 1 driver, Ayrton Senna, "Guia das Ruas de SP"-street map of São Paulo)**