



## Paige on mission



*Studying at a Brazilian school is definitely unique. God has been using this opportunity to open my eyes to the reality of so many needs. As I think on how I dealt with issues in the past year and remember how my shyness served only as a barrier, I am urged to work harder at taking a leader's role in a class where so many are needy. Pray that I would come back next year ready and prepared to not only defeat this fear but to be an example, bringing other people's hearts simply as they are to our awesome Father!*

## Yard sale?

One thing that we miss about the U.S. is yard sales. The deals really help to stretch family dollars to meet needs. A dear missionary couple will soon move from São Luis and is selling some stuff. We plan to buy their refrigerator for about \$440 and microwave for \$90. That's like 60% cheaper than brand new. If you are able and want to help us with one of those items, please feel free to let us know. Thanks!

## What's next?

We appreciate your prayer for Zack as he researches colleges in the U.S. in hopes of moving back there next year to study.

## "Are you saved?"

That's a question one might expect to hear from an evangelist at a public gathering but not from a speaker at a seminary graduation. Our most recent graduating class in October, however, was asked that question by the keynote speaker. His intention was not to undermine the faith of any graduate. Rather, he was encouraging each one to verify that the gospel had truly transformed their life's desires for the sake of God's kingdom. That question served as a potent reminder that authentic gospel transformation is at the heart of why the Intensive Seminary exists. It's not about cranking out workers with a diploma; it's about real life change that will also impact their families, churches, and communities for God's glory. **As Mike serves as director of the Seminary, please pray with us that his leadership will stay focused on this priority and depend on godly wisdom in making decisions toward that end.**

## What God said

Check out what some of our 75 students shared about how God spoke to them at the Seminary training module in October:

- *God told me and motivated me to read the Bible more.*
- *I need to commit to forming a team to help me in ministry.*
- *I need to renounce my will more and demand less from my family.*
- *I owe the gospel to unbelievers because of what the Lord Jesus did in my life.*
- *I should be humble and thankful for everything.*
- *Whoever expects to work in ministry and does not expect to suffer is deeply mistaken.*

## Growing pains

The pastor of our church here in São Luis has left and moved to another city. His departure came about in a rather abrupt and tense fashion so the church body is suffering much turbulence at the moment. Mike has been called upon to share a greater load of some pastoral responsibilities. **Please pray that he will wisely discern the Lord's priorities for his involvement and that we as a church will respond to our Chief Shepherd's leadership with brokenness, repentance, unity, and growth.**

May God's open hand to us in giving His Son to redeem a sin-sick world fill our hearts with incredible, satisfying joy. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Mike, Julie, Zachary, Paige, Erica, & Lauren*