



Thanksgiving/Christmas Greetings from 8 Lees

We are so thankful for the Lord & his open doors in Southern Brazil

Prayer List:

- ... for our upcoming **Home Assignment** (November 2023-June 2024): we are hoping that the Lord will bless us as we share about the AFLC's ministry in Brazil and our part in it, the different projects aimed at the longevity of the mission, we ask for prayer for our health & joy as we travel long distances, for our visits with old friends and new ones, for places to stay along the way, and diligence for our kids as they continue their studies on the road.
- ... for **Brazil's Free Lutheran Seminary** (SETELL): for students and professors to finish the 2023 academic year strong (August-November) and for a strong semester (March-June) while we're in the USA
- ... for **Brazil's Free Lutheran Publishing** (DRELL): for our published translations to impact hearts and lives, for Pastor Fernando as he continues the ministry without me next semester, and especially for the students to continue to grow under his discipleship!
- ... for us to be strong in the **tribulations**! It has been a tough, good year

Home Assignment

Hannah & I have begun mapping our **2024 travel plans** in the USA and **preparing travel documents**:

- 5 passports renewed
- Jeffrey's dual citizenship, IDs, and both passports & Birth Certificates.

Our purpose for returning to the USA is to share about **what the Lord is doing** in AFLC Brazil, raise our **Personal Support** and share the Brazil Field Conference's **2024 Approved Special Projects** and their importance to the longevity of the mission:



The Brazilian Field Conference at Pastors' & Annual Conference: Paul & Becky, John & Hannah, Matthew & Ednay, Jonathan & Tamba (Jonni Sliver missed the picture).

- SETELL Seminary Scholarships, Student Work Fund, Summer Teams, new Chapel Parking lot
- DRELL: Publishing, Discipleship
- CHURCHES: Cohapar, Jardim Esperança
- ARCA: Van Motor, Social Work Fund
- MIRIAM CHILDREN'S HOME: Offices & Educational Wing, Christmas & Easter Celebrations, Children Scholarships for Camp & VBS
- PARAGUAY: Church Construction, Food baskets

We landed in **Kansas November 21st** and spent thanksgiving with Grandpa Jeff and Grandma Jane Swanson.

We anticipate a trip to visit the **California congregations during Christmas & New Years** and then up through the Pacific NW. SETELL's Academic Dean, Pastor Iran, will arrive in **Minnesota mid-April to early-May**. We are so looking forward to visiting and making the best use of the moments we've been given



Our little pilot

Brazil's Free Lutheran Seminary (SETELL)

We've been digging into the riches of the New Testament this semester with **Romans & Galatians** and **1st & 2nd Corinthians**.

In **Romans and Galatians**, I've got two Seminarians (GianLuca & Mateus). We've been examining the Scriptural basis for Walther's 6 distinctions of **Law & Gospel**, Luther's Preface to the Romans (and John Wesley's powerful testimony on how God used it to open heaven up for him!), and the Roman Road (This really helped things click). *Law & Gospel* is not talked about or well understood. **What a need** and prayer item!



Explaining 'Adiaphora' (Loving our neighbor in the "Indifferent Things") to the Bible Schoolers in 1st & 2nd Corinthians

In **1st & 2nd Corinthians**, I introduce the Bible Schoolers to the Scriptural portion of the *Power and Primacy of the Pope* (a statement from the German laymen & Melancton) and how, in it, the reformers used (especially) 1st Corinthians **to break the domination** of Rome, bishops, and human ideas and set God's Word and Spirit as the **only rule & norm** for our life and faith (*Sola Scriptura!*). My students express surprise at the implications of the authority of Scripture: the **Priesthood of All Believers** and **lay leadership**. One of my mature students (a catechized Catholic

from the Assemblies of God background) led us on a march through the Scriptures pastors had used to assert their absolute authority over individuals & the congregation

I will miss next semester so Pastor Jonathan Abel will return to fill in and Fernando Hunhoff will take on one of my classes.

Brazil's Free Lutheran Publishing (DRELL)

This has been a **great year** for DRELL. We are so grateful for double the space (Pastor Iran traded us his A/C'd office); "They Need the Bible" donated 2 laptops (and added to the 2 of mine, they alleviated our shortage in a BIG way); and the generosity of many enabled us to give way books to our pastors and disciple our seminarians (DRELL Publishing & Discipleship project were renewed for 2024). **Thank you for your Prayer & Financial Support!**

This year we have been cautiously dipping our toes into the different Artificial Intelligences (especially editing & art), growing our presence on Instagram [DRELL](#) and [SETELL](#), and we continue to have excellent theological discussions (Grace Alone/Monergism has been a BIG subject with the Bible Schoolers and Rosenius's Devotional emphasis on Law & Gospel has been BIG with the seminarians)

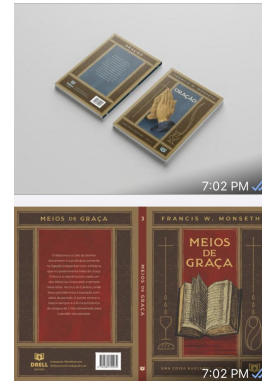
Professor Fernando Hunhoff continues to turn his seminary classes into courses:

Last Semester: Church History centuries I-IV & Christology;

This Semester: Reformation Church History, Hebrews, & Soteriology

Recent Translations for 2023 include: Monseth's *Prayer and Means of Grace* to add to Linda Korhonen's WMF study *Don't Follow your Feelings* earlier this year

Translations in process include: Saarnivaara's *Rosenius Biography*, the *Short Rosenius Devotional*, a new WMF study, among others...



We released Dr. Monseth's Prayer and Means of Grace at Annual Conference (partnership with Ambassador Publications & Lutheran Ambassador)

Arrival in the USA



Taking off to the USA



Thanksgiving!

Pray for us! Busy Season:

- I had taken on an **extra class**
- A mission house **Remodel**: a 4-week move, New Roof, New Electrical, and New Bathroom
- a New **Baby** Jeffrey our 6th under 8 years old
- **Health**: battling Brazilian bacterias, trips to the ER, trips to specialists (*still grappling*)
- **Minivan trouble**: leaks, split radiator, blown head gasket, suspension fixes, *we're short a seat* (7 seats & 8 people!)

- A destructive **windstorm** [click here for video**](#): Blew a chunk of our new roof off. *What a discouragement that was!*

We experienced the words of Paul: "We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure ... But this happened **that we might not rely on ourselves but on God**, who raises the dead" (1 Cor 1:8-9)



Our roof



Our Bedroom ceiling caved in



The Helpers

But *I should not have* feared **God had it worked out!**

- My Mom, Short Term Assistants (from Journey Missions), my Aunt Joy helped **during the remodel and birth.**
- **My students** saw the roof flying through the air and raced to help! Everyone came together** to help
- **Pastor Silvio** worked with the roofing company and insurance agency. (Praise: Everything ended up being covered)
- Everyone was **safe**

God made all these things work together not only for us but for our kids and those around us. In so many ways the timing worked out right.

So **please pray for patience** for us and for us **to not grow weary** of serving the Lord! We are so grateful for every opportunity the Lord provides and for all of you who have held us up so faithfully as we fight through the challenges **to disciple a new generation** of congregational leaders, evangelists, pastors, and missionaries. We are **so looking forward to our time with you** and want to make the most of our time

Gifts can be given by [clicking here](#) or sent to:

AFLC World Mission
3110 E Medicine Lake Blvd
Plymouth, MN 55441

*If sending via mail, please include a note indicating the gift is for "Lee family."



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