

Miriam Children's Home

Changing the Future of Brazil

Jonni Sliver March 2024



Spring is bursting out all over!

Well, I hope it is any way! It has been an unusual winter to be sure! Spring is such a wonderful season - the very picture of hope! The ground is frozen, the trees look like the died, the lakes are frozen still. Then spring arrives - the first buds of leaves appear on the trees, tiny green sprouts color the ground, moving water begins to break through the ice, and the hope of new life arrives for us all!

Here in Brazil it isn't spring, but there is plenty of hope to go around! Last month I told you about **Joao (8)** and **Isaque (9)** meeting the families looking to adopt them. From their first meetings they have progressed to week-long visits during the Carnival school holidays. Joao even got to celebrate his 8th birthday with them!



We are very glad to hear from the boys and from the families that all of them considered the visits to be great success. This week-end Joao



is joining his family again (it is more difficult for Isaque to go for a week-end for because the family lives so far away.).

And our little **Betina (2)**, who was officially adopted in December, **finally** joined her new mom, just this week! She moved in



to a new home that needed renovations, which took far longer than expected. We will miss this jewel a lot, but we are so glad that she has a home and a healthy family.



Some other children have left the Miriam Home, but still need your prayers!

The first and most urgent is **Thayla**! I have requested urgent prayer for Thayla many times, but this is a bit different. A meeting was held with the juvenile court authorities, representatives from the school Thayla attended, our social assistant and child welfare case workers. They tried to decide what would truly help her. The high school advised she could not return because of her continuous aggression of other children. We have had similar serious problems over the last year. The judge decided that Thayla needed to be moved to another city, to a different children's home, to try and give her a new start. What Thayla needs isn't more medication or a new location - she needs to let God come in and transform her life! Thought she has taken steps toward the Lord, so far she has always turned away, and her next crises is always worse than the last! **Please pray for Thayla's miracle!!!**



Sofia and Antony also left us in February, to live with their "dad". Pedro is the man that cared for them the most. Though he isn't their father, he cared for them as if he was. The children's mother lived with him off and on; when she was between relationships. then suddenly she would leave, taking the children with her. When it was no longer convenient. she would leave the children with Pedro again. The last time she left the children with a neighbor for the week-end, and seven months later she has not yet checked in. When Pedro heard the children were in the Miriam Home he went to the judge and asked to care for the children.



He lives on a small farm along with his parents, is hard working and very caring and we believe that the children will be blessed in this home. Pedro continues to love the children's mom, and would take her back, if she came, but she has told him that he is "too normal" for her.

New Faces to Love

We welcomed a sweet duo this month - **Davi (6) and Vitoria (4)**. They come from a situation of chronic neglect, and when they arrived they put the hype in hyper! It was almost impossible to quiet them down! But in just a few days we saw them calm down, and



we wonder if the manic energy came from their diet at home. Though there were basic unmet needs, we see that there have also been some good influences in

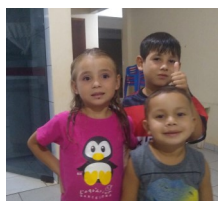
their young lives - they are truly polite and have a large vocabulary. It is fun to see how quickly they pick up on and we have loved getting to know these precious children!

Quick like bunnies

Now we have children who come and children who go - but last month I think we hit a new record for children who did both! In less than ten days ten children arrived to the Miriam Home and left!

Enrique, Ellen and Enzo (6, 4 and 3) had a treat.

They arrived on Friday, in time for dinner, took part in a back yard party on Saturday (a local church comes once a month, play with the kids and do wonderful skits that share God's love with kiddos of all ages), and then they were off, to live with their grand mother.



Helloyiza, Vitor and Hugo (8, 6 & 1) came next and were also with us for just a few days. A violent fight between their parents escalated, and the mom decided to leave Campo Mourao and return to her family in the

north of Brazil. The children stayed with us just long enough for her to get the bus tickets (a 23 hour trip!!!).

Gustavo, Erik and Jeferson (8, 6 and 4) came next, on accident! They arrived in the middle of the night, brought by a new social services representative, who found the children alone, sleeping in a tent, in a square in town. The children come from an indigenous family, and the representative didn't know that by the indigenous families, who are often nomadic and set up their homes in squares and parks, are not subject to civil laws, and the children can't be brought to shelters - at the most they can be taken to the hospital if they are injured. So the boys were just with us until the next day - gone in a wink!



The last arrival was also with us over night. **Kauni (13)** arrived because of a fight with her father (which one was a aggressor remains in question) and



the next day she left for her grandmother's house. You can see from her picture that she didn't appear overjoyed to be with us.

Do you wonder if there is any spiritual impact on the lives of the children who come go so quickly? There is! This second crazy picture is of moment of singing before the devotional and in the corner you can see Kauni. She isn't participating, but she is hearing! And faith comes by hearing! Maybe it is just one devotional, one backyard ministry time, one night with a tia praying over you, but every child hears! And what they hear goes with them, to be watered by the Holy Spirit!

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