

Miriam Children's Home

Changing the Future of Brazil

Jonni Sliver April 2020



Home Again, Home Again

I have so much to be thankful for!

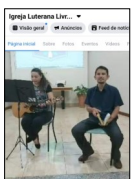
I am thank you for the warm and loving welcome so many of you gave me as I visited your homes and churches! Some of you are brand new friends, others were wonderful returns, but all of you had open hearts and true love for the children of the Miriam Home.

I am thankful for your prayers! I was on the road from the first week of December until the first week of March and did not get caught in one blizzard; didn't have to creep down one ice covered freeway! I saw God's hand of mercy in every road trip, and saw His perfect timing from beginning to the end. I saw the fruit of your prayers!

I'm thankful for the delay in my return, because I got to be with my brother as he went through a serious surgery, and got to celebrate with him the positive results.

I'm thankful that, at the right moment, God provided my new visa and my flight back to Brazil! I not only got into Brazil before the international flights ended but got from Sao Paulo to Parana on the last day of interstate flights!!!

I returned to a Brazil in flux just the same as the Minnesota I left. The cuddles I have waited for are limited to virtual ones as hugs have become a thing of the past- and future, here, as much as in the US. The Sunday service at Lar Parana looks very different on



a small screen. My sweet apartment feels smaller than I remember, since I am on the 7th day of a two week "rest", to make sure I didn't bring any souvenirs home for airports and full planes. And as I see fear based extremes and day by day changes that look like shifting sand; I am so thankful for our unchanging, unshifting God, whose hand still holds us!

Catching Up

The Miriam Home was busy and before you hear what is new let me update you on children you already know.

Many are wondering how our young mom, **Josiane** and her precious baby, **Emmanuelle** are doing. I am happy to say that they are both safe and happy. Though there was a possibility that they might have to return to Josi's biological family (we were very concerned for their safety if this were to happen), but they are both living with the family of Emmanuelle's father, Wellington. They continue in contact with us and we are able to continue sharing God's word with them. Please pray that they would build their family to serve and glorify God!

We also had two precious visits, from children who had been adopted. Just three weeks ago **Jennifer and Ione** (adopted in May of 2019) surprised everyone when they dropped in with their mom to give hugs all around (while that was still allowed!). It was wonderful for the house moms to see how these precious young ladies are growing and learning more and more who God created them to be!



And going further back, **Altieres and Thavilady** are twins who were in the Miriam Home when I first arrived, back in 2011. These amazing, valiant twins with a myriad of health problems because of their mother's alcohol addiction, both before and after their birth. In 2012 they were adopted and became Henrique and Heloisa. Though we were able to keep up for a time we haven't seen them since 2015. Until February, when they appeared on our door step! Mom and dad brought the kiddos to see their first home, meet people who have loved them their whole lives and hear the story of how God brought them together as a family!



Visiting their 1st bedroom!

Working All Things For Good!

Though the number of children in the Miriam Home was lower for the first two months of the year, the family is growing again. We have 17 kiddos right now and some new faces for you to know and love, so let me catch you up!

Let's start off with someone who really isn't new - it is **Thaylla (9 years old)**! She lived with us for 9 months before she was adopted by a family in another state. Five months later the couple told Thaylla they were going on vacation, got on a plane and brought her back to Campo Mourao, turning her over to social services, without explanations. Though we understand that adoptions aren't easy and bonding doesn't always take place, simply dropping her off, like returned shoes, broke Thaylla's heart, and ours. The Thaylla knows that she is back where she is loved and the healing has begun!



Jamile (14) came to us directly from the streets. Though most runaways don't stay here longer than they do in their own homes, Jamile settled in well and hasn't shown any desire to go back to the street.

Pedro (8) and Poliana (18 months) are with us because of extreme neglect. Poliana has a lot of health issues and is severely under weight, but in the few weeks they have been here we have seen her gain strength, energy and confidence!



The newest princes in the house is **Eloisa (3)**. She was left with a neighbor by her mother, who simply never came back. This little sweetie wasn't surprised—mom often left without notice.



As I said, the coronavirus has impacted Brazil in many of the same ways your lives in the States have been. For the last two weeks the Miriam Home has been under a protective order and the only ones who can go in to the house are the house moms on duty. Even Pr. Silvio has to leave purchase at the door and when three children returned to their parents last week the house mom brought the children out - social worker couldn't go in the house to get them.

I know that sounds harsh, but God is using this time of seclusion in lovely ways. At this moment when most of Brazil (and the world) is anxious and unsure; our kiddos



feel loved and sheltered. We are doing everything we can to make life normal, from backyard barbecues to birthday parties. The ringing sound of laughter is wonderful, even if I can't join in the fun!

It is a unique moment when all of the other voices—family, school friends, boy friends and others, are silent. These lovely women are ministering God's power to protect and to heal and the children are being drawn in to deeper moment with the Lord. Please continue to pray for God's hand to move over the turbulent waters we are passing through!

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