

Miriam Children's Home

Changing the Future of Brazil

Jonni Sliver June 2024



How Things Change

Greetings from a chilly Campo Mourao! Fall has arrived, and as I write you I am wearing two pairs of socks and have a blanket on my lap! These are the days I wait for! And our kiddos are cute as a bug in a rug in their winter gear.



A lot has changed in one short month. We left you with every house mom with a baby on their hip, and everyone on guard, with a swatter on one hand and a can of Off in the other. In three weeks time all of our babies were gone (yes, there were tears, no not from the babies), and in the last week, with a sudden dip in temps, the mosquitos have gone wherever they go!

Home again, Home again



All of our littlest lambs that left last month returned to some part of their family, and that is pretty common for any of the children only here for a month or two. **Henrique (1 year)** was the first to leave. Actually Pr Silvio and I took him to his aunt's family, who live in a small town about an hour from

Campo Mourao. A Christian family, they were delighted to receive Henrique and when we arrived two little cousins were waiting excitedly to greet him. It is a very different setting than the one he came from. We have heard from the family several times in these weeks, and Henrique is doing very well!

Sweet sisters **Ketlyn (3)** and **Poliana (1)** were with us for a short time and were the next to leave. They joined their grandmother. Her parents are allowed to visit, but only in Grandma's presence.



Another little one who is home again is **Odalía (8 months old)**! She joined her grandmother and is doing very well. We are so grateful for these wonderful grandmas, loving and caring for these precious babes!



Henrique and Pedro also left, this time to their mother. We are praying for this two special little boys, because from what we can see, their family has made no real changes—just surface appearances to please social services. Our



confidence is in that the Holy Spirit began working in these two young lives and the Holy Spirit will continue His good work!

Our last little one to leave was **Vitor (1 year old)**. He had been living with his father and step-mother, and he went to live with his mother and step-father. From what we can see through home visits and conversations it looks like a safe home for this little prince, and we are praying for God to protect him and guide them!



Though five babies plus toddlers make for a lot of work, the house certainly is quiet without them! But as you already know, the demographics of the Miriam Home shifts in a wink of the eye!

New Faces to Love

In May more children left than arrived. Just five children came and of them only two stayed.

Maria Rita (10 years old), Reinado (4) and Alice (1)

were with us for just one week, but no one would know! It took no time for them to make friends and find their way around the house. They arrived right as lunch was being served and that is always an advantage! When the first thing you see are full plates of good food, you know that things are going to be o.k.! The children came to us because of extreme neglect in their home, though Reinaldo and Alice didn't really know because Maria did what their parents didn't! The kiddos left us for their grandmother's house and were very excited.



The last to arrive were **Lohanna (13 years old) and Joao Gabriel (9)** who came from a near by town, where they lived with their father and stop-mother. These are sweet kids and we have enjoyed getting to know them. Joao is a bright and funny boy, who is also autistic. His form of autism is different than Enzo's, not having the extreme outbursts, but when he becomes anxious he withdraws instead of lashing out.

Joao doesn't know how to read, because the school he went to didn't have time or staff to work with special need students. Instead they gave him paper, colored pencils and glue and he would create animals of all kinds, but by preference dinosaurs



- ones the stood up and had articulated tails. No one taught him to make these animals, he figured them out for him self.

I have a small zoo sitting on my desk, as Joao has made a new animal for me almost every day- to protect my computer, I am told. But Joao has opened up to Marina (our tutor), telling her how he hates being stupid. Why? Because he can't read. Marina explained that he doesn't know how to read—yet! They have only been here a few weeks, but the children are both in school and between school and Marina he is already showing some progress! I am expecting that we will see him make the same kind of progress Enzo has!

Speaking of...

Enzo has been with us for a whole year now! This last week has been very special for him. In the first weeks he was with us he had severe melt downs, with little verbalization as to what was triggering them. As time passed his crises became less severe and his ability to explain what was wrong grew. One of the things that hurt him a lot was



when the older children called him names and said he was a dummy because he didn't know how to read. Now, a year later, after hard work, and great helpers, Enzo received his report card, and one night next week the Miriam Home kiddos will have pizza for dinner because the house rule is, the

reward for an A is pizza for dinner! On his report card Enzo's lowest grade was a B, the highest was an A+. He was surprised and has been walking on clouds since!

Contact Information

To receive monthly newsletters and prayer requests:

AFLC World Missions Attn: Jonni Sliver
3110 Medicine Lake Blvd
Plymouth, Mn, 55441
sassi.jonni@gmail.com

Address in Brazil:

Jonni Lynn Sliver
CP 641
Campo Mourao, PR Brazil 87300-970



To make a financial contribution: Make checks payable to AFLC World Missions and enclose a note that it is for the support of Jonni Sliver; send to the above address. Or give on line at www.aflcworldmissions.org/online-giving/missionaries-donate