

Missionaries John and Joyce Larrabee

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

As we look back over 2016, Joyce and I wish to praise God for His mercy and goodness to us and to thank our many loved ones and friends who pray for and encourage us.

We began our year returning from a trip to Brazil. We had the privilege of bringing our Brazilian daughter **Linelma** with us. **Joyce** began the second semester of her first year teaching Portuguese at **Union County Elementary** in Blairsville, Georgia, and **Naiara** went back to classes at **Ambassador Baptist College**. **Aldenir** finished his 3rd year of Bible College in Curitiba, Brazil, and is now doing his pastoral internship.

I spent March preparing for my mission trip to Brazil with **MTT Ministries**. April found me in Brazil to arrange all of the details for the MTT trip. In May, Linelma and I participated in the MTT Boot Camp training and helped the young people master their songs and testimonies in Portuguese. From mid-May to early June, I traveled in Brazil with MTT as a guide and translator while Linelma stayed to help Joyce.

This past summer, our home church, **Shining Light Baptist** in Blairsville, GA, built a new auditorium—debt free. **Praise the Lord!** Naiara spent the summer completing the internship for her college major. Joyce completed nine units of graduate credit for her certification while I spent July playing catch up. In August, I began supplying the pulpit at **Refuge Baptist Church** in Cumming, Georgia, and Joyce resumed teaching her "**Meek and Quiet Spirit**" materials to the ladies' Sunday school class at Shining Light.

Linelma received an extension to stay in the USA until November, and was approved as an official volunteer for fall semester. She worked with Joyce two or three days a week using her native Portuguese to help the students' pronunciation. I spent September and October in **Mongolia** with our dear friend **Nathan Woolley**. We loved the country and the people. It was a blessing to preach where Christianity was illegal until 1991. On the way home, I stopped in **Korea** for a brief visit with our long-time friends **Al and Pam Hendrickson**, from our days at **Landmark Christian Academy**. That was, as they say, "**refreshing to the soul.**"

In November I returned to pulpit supply at Refuge Baptist, and we got to have the whole family together for **Thanksgiving**—and it truly was a day of giving thanks! **Johnny and Marguarite** are in Greenville, SC where he is Assistant Pastor at **Pebble Creek Baptist Church**, and **Josie** is in 6th grade. **Christi** is still in Michigan with a new job. **Jonathan** is a junior in college and **Maddie** is a freshman. On December 11, Refuge Baptist Church invited me to serve as **Interim Pastor** until June. We are all busy planning for the end of the year, and Naiara gets to spend her school break with us. Our hearts are full of praise for all God has done and for the matchless gift of His Son, **Jesus Christ**, as our Savior.

Special Requests:

1. Refuge Baptist was larger in the past and has a beautiful facility. They now have only 10 active members, but they are serious Christians who want to win the lost to Christ. Pray for us as we seek to rebuild.
2. Linelma was not able to get a further extension on her visa and had to return to Brazil on November 25. Please pray for her safety and guidance as she has returned to a country in political crisis and financial ruin.
3. Our plans to spend June and July in Brazil working with the Munduruku tribe.

Thank you for your love, interest and prayers.

In Christ, **John and Joyce**

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. Ephesians 3:8