

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103 - ESV)

Nothing can be more comforting and encouraging than knowing that our Lord is ahead of us working the soil of those hard hearts, which sometimes include ours, to receive the seed of the Gospel, or the fertilizer to make the tree grow stronger. We praise him for letting us be part of his orchestra, playing a single instrument, but composing a beautiful symphony as our master and most beloved brother, Jesus Christ, conducts us all. God is at work!

### Colloquium



A year ago, we started a course on Covenant Theology for Lay People meeting every other week. The goal was to equip Christians with a framework to interpret and apply the Bible to their everyday life situations. We were sold out for the first class, and had to open a second one meeting also every other week on Thursdays. The first class graduated this semester with an only 20% drop off. However, what amazed us is that for the second class we had two non-Christians attending, with almost a 100% attendance. One of them grew up in the church, and the other is an atheist. They both are “in love” with Colloquium, and they make the effort to not to miss a single Colloquium event. One of them has also gone to Mosaico Pres (our church) twice, and the atheist said will start attending our Bible studies on Wednesdays. It has been wonderful to see how eager they are to learn about Christianity. Their comments often challenge our worldviews, and sometimes our students are “corned” so to speak, not knowing how to answer their deep and meaningful questions. As the title of this section says, God is at work!



Every second Saturday we meet with a group of young professionals, about 20 of them. The goal is to engage with topics raised by the group itself, aiming to equip them for evangelism and ethical decisions at the “Market Place”. In addition, every fourth Saturday we meet with about 40 university students from freshman to seniors. We feel somewhat awkward with them, as far as age goes, Luciano is closer to the 50s than to the 40s☺. Yet, they are full of questions, which challenge us to learn more about subjects that are not so intuitive to us, and move us to seek to speak their language rather than ours. Definitely, they are our “adopted” sons and daughters, and above all God’s instruments to bring light to the “Market of Ideas”. We do both, “Market Place”, and “Market of Ideas” with partnership with Mosaico Presbyterian Church.



Well, you may ask “how about the other events at Colloquium?” They are there! Popcorn and DVD (or Blu-ray if you belong to a younger generation), Café Colloquium, Examining the Bible, Open Talk, On the table, An evening with... It has been more than a decade now (13 years) that we have seen God using Colloquium as His instrument to renew minds, transform lives and impact our culture by His grace and for his Glory.

### Mosaico Pres.



This past October Mosaico celebrated its first anniversary. We are joyful that in these two and half years of church planting, the Lord has led many people to find rest under His wings. God brought to us unchurched people that, through God’s grace have found the joy of being close to God’s people again, and non-believers who have found the everlasting hope and happiness of belonging and intimately relating to the one true Savior.

We are now in a new rental facility. The previous one served us well, but you may remember that we met at a car dealership, which was great for the Sunday worship, but limited the church children’s and education department not having enough rooms for their meetings. We found a place to rent only a block from where we used to meet. God really saved that place for us! We were the first ones to see it on the market, and negotiation developed fast and smooth. The property owner accepted our proposal for a five-year contract, with the option to renew for more five and so on. Three churches before us met there, and all three moved out to the facilities they now own. Isn’t it amazing? Praise the Lord!



## Visa Denial

Luciano has been invited to speak at Covenant Presbyterian Church for their Missions Conference this coming February. There, he would also meet with other people regarding establishing a Latin America Church Plant Network. We drove yesterday (12/29) to Brasilia, Brazil's capital, which is two hours from Goiania. Luciano had with him, for the Consulate interview, all necessary paperwork: letters of invitation, bank statements, Brazil IRS forms, confirmation of round trip tickets plus all old passports showing that we never tried to illegally immigrate. The consular officer did not look at any of these paperwork, and denied the visa saying that Luciano has applied to the wrong one. Well, Luciano did not apply to the wrong one, this is the same type of visa we entered the USA before including our three six months' sabbaticals (2005,2008 and 2012). At this point we are seeking counsel first with our "Wonderful Counselor", and also with our PMI board and from Covenant church whether we should apply again or not. If Luciano applies there is a great chance, and usually it is what happens, it will be denied again. We are resting that "to us belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue... [for] In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps." (Pv.16:1,9)

## Praises and Prayer Requests

Praise the Lord:

For all blessings, he has poured upon us. We are all in good health! Mila and Pedro are doing great in school, besides growing in beauty and love to our Lord.

For giving us faith, strength, health and all that has been necessary for us to work as his instruments in Goiania.

For all the ministry outcomes, He has made happen in our lives through Colloquium and through Mosaico Pres.

Pray:

For our ministry at Colloquium. That our Lord will continue to bring many non-Christians to attend the events and that He will continue enabling us to deepen our relationship with all who come to our home for Colloquium.

For our ministry at Mosaico Pres. That Luciano continue to have faithfulness and wisdom to lead the church on God's path as our flock grows and with it the responsibility to shepherd it according to our Lord's own heart. That Luciene continue to have wisdom and insights as she leads Mosaico children's ministry, which is also growing fast and is being established as the top priority of our church.

For Brazil's political and financial situation. Many people have lost their jobs as our country is immersed in a severe financial crisis. In addition, the corruption in our government higher ranks has become unbearable, and our people are now asking for the impeachment of our president.

For Luciano's Visa situation.

Thank you for being part of our lives,  
and for partnering with God's work in Brazil.

In His Love,

Luciano, Luciene, Mila and Pedro.

