

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Heb 12:1:

## Running the Race

This month has been full of blessings. Bela, Ângela, Cíntia, Danielle and I have been meeting once a month all year to organize and plan the Ladies Retreat. It is someone from each of congregations here. We have grown closer through this project and Bela found a Batik class and asked Ângela and I if we would be interested in taking it with her. We agreed and Bela said that she would get more information. Well.....about 6 weeks passed by and I assumed that the Batik class had fallen through or was too expensive or full and so I joined a little group that has started meeting in our apartment complex called 'Café com Arte' (Coffee and Art) As soon as I took that on, Bela calls and says that the Batik class is starting that week. One thing led to another and I am involved in BOTH of those classes. I have thoroughly enjoyed both of them and I have made many new friends in my apartment complex. I believe that God brought this into my life at just the right time when I desperately needed some simple female friendships in my life. Plus, you know me, I'm thinking of how I will find a way to study the Bible with them eventually. Hahahaha

Rob has agreed to teach a class at the School of the Bible here in town. The School of the Bible is also home to the largest congregation here in Sergipe and it is the congregation where Randy and Ângela work. We have many friends in this congregation because we worshipped with them for the first year and a half that we were in Aracaju until we started our own work. Our long term goal is to have a congregation that meets in each of the 26 neighborhoods here in Aracaju.

The course that Rob is going to teach is Systematic Theology and we have been working like crazy getting the kits for that class ready. Rob has been writing material and Camargo and I have been doing our best to translate it.

Rob and I are also right in the middle of creating a set of evangelistic lessons that anyone could use to give their friends and family a rough sketch of the Bible and teach them the gospel. These are in the form of 10 one-page brochures. Sort of like World Bible School kind of lessons.

These two major translating projects plus my own studies and my TWO new art classes have really kept me running this month. I love being busy.

There have been disappointments too. The group in Rosa Elze closed down. That family decided that they would prefer to meet in a Pentecostal atmosphere. I still hold hope that the relationships that we have built with them will some day lead them to obey the gospel, but it still feels like a bitter defeat. I am struck here so profoundly at what an amazing job Satan has done at convincing lost people that they are saved. They are skipping merrily toward eternal destruction completely deceived. The passage in Matthew 7 rings in my head...."Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' " Some of those people will be my friends and maybe even my daughter. Some of those people will be people that we have taught

like Walter, Ernanie, Wellington, Jardyson, Wilma, Jeane, Vilane and Allan. Just to name a few off the top of my head. Each one of these are disappointments in our work here. We have not given up hope for these people. They are still in our prayers.

Please keep us in your prayers. You are all so special to us and we are constantly thanking our Lord for your friendships, prayers, calls, cards love and support. We could not do this work without you.

I am especially praying for the Southgate congregation as they renew their commitment to missions in October. May God Bless you all richly,

I love each of you! Marie

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:24