

# The McClures

Brazil, January 3, 2007

## The Fast Track

Shortly after our last letter announcing that we had purchased tickets, we planned a follow-up letter to share how quickly everything was lining up for our departure on Dec. 9. I jokingly said that it seemed that God was “fast-tracking” the last part of deputation for us. I wasn’t far off: things have finally slowed down and settled enough for me to plan and write this letter, and here we are, in Brazil and in the new year. How on Earth did it all happen so fast? Of course, the only answer is: God.

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## By the way . . .

Don't forget to check out our website at [BrazilianOutreach.org](http://BrazilianOutreach.org), where you will find regularly updated news and prayer requests, as well as other information on our family.

If you want regular e-mail updates, be sure to register as an Online Partner today!

## 3-D Answers to Prayer

In our last letter we talked about 3 “D’s”: documents, decisions, and dollar signs. God worked in and around our final deputation church meetings to meet our needs in those three areas.

**Documents.** The biggest hurdle was Ann Janel’s permanent resident visa. As I mentioned, she could travel with the tourist visa we already had, but could not purchase a one-way ticket (as the rest of us, dual-citizens, had). We had heard all the horror stories about how long it could take and how much red tape had to be overcome before a permanent visa would be granted. God had other plans. The whole process, from application to receiving her passport with the visa in it, took an unbelievable eleven days! Once we arrived in Brazil, we finalized the process by registering her with immigration, and she is now a legal resident alien in Brazil.

(You can read the more detailed version of this story on our website, [www.BrazilianOutreach.org](http://www.BrazilianOutreach.org).)

**Decisions.** I still cringe when I think about the stress of the final two weeks in the States. Even with Ann Janel, who is genetically hard-wired to organize and plan, we had last minute details and decisions that seemed to hit us as unexpectedly as the winter storm the week before we left. God supplied us with a small army of friends and family, whose invaluable help made the packing, the preparation for shipping, and the last-minute storing possible.

**Dollar signs.** God supplied our financial needs in amazing ways during our final months in the States. While new churches joined us in financial support, others overwhelmed us with their generosity. One church supplied us with new luggage for the trip, as well as paying the costs for the visa and passports. Another church sent us \$4000, not knowing that this would cover the cost of the tickets. The giving of churches and individuals covered even our shipping expenses. In our final weeks in America we hardly seemed to discover a need before God met it in some way.

**Answers Unawares.** We know of at least one way God supplied a need of which we weren’t even aware. During the last few months strikes have made the flight situation in Brazil a huge mess: people have been delayed for hours, even days, in the airports, without hotel stays, waiting for things to clear up. Members of the church here in Brazil thought that we would encounter similar problems. Instead, we discovered that some of our flights, scheduled since July, had been rescheduled without warning, then delayed in such a way that they nearly matched our tickets. After all was said and done, we arrived in Brasília only an hour later than expected.

## Now What?

We are so excited to be in Brazil. We are looking forward to the opportunities God will provide in the days, months, and years ahead. Now that we are on this side of things, we are facing new challenges, and ask that you pray with us about them.

- Pray that our shipping will clear customs shortly, and that the fees will be reasonable.
- Pray that the children will transition smoothly into their new language and culture.
- Pray that we find the right teacher for Ann Janel, so she can begin language study.
- Pray that we can find the right vehicle, at the right price.

Thank you for your part in our ministry,  
Patrick, Ann Janel,  
Nathanael, Elena, and Joel McClure

# Missionaries to Brazil