



Borbas' Report

May & June 2019

*“Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

Psalm 100:3 (ESV)



Dear partners in the gospel!

How are you?

Can you believe that the first half of 2019 is already gone! Time does go by fast! Another school semester is over, and we are enjoying our summer. We hope and pray you are as well.

TATI AND BABY JOANNA:

- Both Tati and Joanna are doing great! As of June 30, we are well into the 2nd trimester of pregnancy, at week 21. Joanna is the size of a spaghetti squash and weighs about 1 pound!
- All doctor's reports are wonderful. Mom and baby are very healthy, and everything is as it should be. We have been extremely blessed with a really uneventful pregnancy. Tati doesn't feel a lot of pain or discomforts.
- We appreciate your continuing support and prayers for us, especially in this important phase of our lives. We know that Joanna is already loved by so many people!
- *SAVE THE DATE:* you're all invited to come to our baby shower! It's going to be on September 22 (Sunday) at the Cloverdale Church of Christ here in Searcy!

We are registered at:

AMAZON (for general gifts)

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/maikon-borba-tati-borba-november-2019-searcy/1IPAMY6LNIHHJ>

WALMART (gift cards for diapers and wipes):

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/baby/b88f2565-3e02-497d-afa7-0ffc8cdbc5df>



HARDING & CLASSES:

- The Spring semester is finally over. Maikon took some difficult classes which were very demanding. With the grace of God, he finished strong with straight As. Maikon's current GPA is 3.76.
- On May 6 we attended the Bible Majors Cookout. It is organized by Bible Faculty for all the Bible students. The professors cooked delicious barbecue and even performed some songs for us.
- Tati's class was also challenging but she managed to finish with an A.
- Our friend, Lance Sanchez, graduated from Harding. He and Maikon started together in 2016! Godspeed to him and his wife, Brittany!
- As for summer classes, Maikon took an intersession class called "Astronomy and Space Science." Tati is currently taking an online class called "Christian Families."



Lance's graduation

CHURCH & YOUTH GROUP:

- May 1 was Promotion Wednesday at Cloverdale. All the kids and youth advanced classes and we celebrated that with pizza, games and a devotional. This event is always led by the Youth Group.
- On Sunday May 12 we honored the High School seniors with a special blessing ceremony and fellowship with their families.
- We have a new youth and family minister at Cloverdale. His name is Luke Dockery and he and his family moved from Farmington, AR. We are glad to be assisting him as he transitions.
- This summer Maikon and Tati will be co-teaching with brother Scott Biddle the 7th-8th graders' class on Sunday mornings. The series is called "Christian Basics."



Promotion Day



Seniors
Service

SURVEY AND MISSION TRIPS:

Our time in Europe was wonderful and God has blessed us all the way!

SURVEY TRIP TO PORTUGAL

- Our survey trip to Portugal started in the beautiful city of Porto. We really enjoyed meeting our brothers and sisters at church there. The congregation, although small, was very biblical and sound (and it very much reminded us of the small churches back in Brazil). Porto receives quite a lot of tourists and on the Sunday we were there, we had a sister (named Carol) from Switzerland, for whom Tati helped translate most of the worship service. The message was brought by a brother from the church in Brasilia. After church we had lunch with many people from church at João and Aline's house. We had a great time of fellowship with one another and the food was delicious! It was indeed a very good day!
- After spending a few days in Porto, we came back to Lisbon. We have truly enjoyed getting to know the city. It is very beautiful, clean and well organized, with a great blend of history and modernity! We also spent time with our brothers and sisters from the congregation there. On Sunday, Maikon preached and Tati led a Bible study with the ladies, after church, while they had a picnic in a nearby park.



The congregation in Porto



The Douro River

João and Aline's family





Beautiful Lisbon



Beautiful Belem and delicious pastries!



Encouraging the brothers and sisters in Lisbon



Valfredo & Soili Dias



João



Marcelo & Tati Nunes

The church building in Lisbon



Maikon was invited to preach

Discovery Bible Study & Picnic



DIVINE COINCIDENCES??

Let us please tell you about what happened to us on Sunday, June 9.

1) It was our last day in Portugal and we were eager to spend the Lord's Day with our brothers and sisters in Lisbon. In the morning, we called an Uber and, to our surprise, the driver identified himself as a Christian (probably evangelical). Please, note that Christians are the minority in Portugal. Ezequiel said that he and his wife had recently moved to Lisbon and were actually looking for a new church family. We gave him our card, got his phone number and gave it to our brother Valfredo who promised to reach out to him.

2) After having a great day in Lisbon with the church, it was time to say our goodbyes and head to the airport (we were in London for some days in between Portugal and Lithuania). We got to London late, took the train at the airport and headed to our Airbnb. However, when we got to the Underground station downtown, we found out that it was closed and we wouldn't be able to change lines. We tried calling an Uber but both our apps were not working (we had to call our bank in America the next day to see what was going on). This meant that we were pretty much stuck at Holborn station, halfway through to our destination at 1 AM.

3) We called our host at the Airbnb and told him what happened. Iyanga was a very kind guy who, right away, volunteered to help us. He called an Uber from his own phone and had the driver pick us up at the station. We were very surprised by his attitude and willingness to help us. We were actually wondering why he would do such a thing to two complete strangers... In the car, on the way to the house, we got to talk to the driver, a very sweet lady called Selena. It turned out that she was also a Christian (bear in mind that, when compared to Portugal, Christianity in the UK is even smaller). We were so surprised! She told us that she had recently married an American from Florida and will be soon moving with him to... Boca Raton!! This is precisely one of the two cities where Tati and I are planning to move to and work with the Brazilian community after I graduate from HU!!! A divine coincidence, maybe?? We exchanged contacts and will definitely keep in touch with her!

4) Alright... It was way past 2 AM when we finally arrived at our Airbnb. We were greeted by our host's mom, Ms. Eka. She is a sweet lady originally from Nigeria. We got to talking a little bit while she was showing us around the house. In the kitchen, we saw a plate hanging on the wall with a Christian image and a Bible verse. I noticed it and said to her that I really liked it and that we were Christians. She revealed that she was one as well. Again, maybe just another divine coincidence. Wait, it doesn't stop there! She looked at my sweater and saw it was from HU. She smiled and asked: "Are you perhaps members of the church of Christ?" It turned out that her son and she are our brother and sister in Christ!! What are the odds of such a thing happening!!!??? Tati and I are still to this day in total awe!! Ms. Eka was soooooo happy to be hosting us and couldn't wait to take us to church with her on Wednesday and Sunday. She told us that this was the very first time ever that they hosted Christians in their home, let alone church of Christ Christians!! Tati and I said a huge Thanksgiving prayer that night before we went to bed and we're still trying to figure out what God was exactly trying to tell us with all this!! Against all the very odds, there are no coincidences to God. The churches of Christ are REALLY small in London and there is no way to know personal details about your Airbnb hosts when you book a house to stay. We simply chose one that had a good rate and was close to an Underground station. But then God decided to orchestrate things in such a way that we ended up, unknowingly, coming to a church of Christ household. It was emotional and teary to us all! We were happy that this was just another proof that the Lord is with us and guiding us in each step of the way! We were humbled and happy that we got to serve the church in London that week! This was another huge opportunity to praise the Lord for his greatness!



Big smiles with Ms. Eka at 2 AM!
Our hearts were filled with joy and thanksgiving for God's amazing grace!

THE STRATFORD COC

That week we had the opportunity to attend church with our brothers and sisters at the Stratford CoC in East London, Ms. Eka's congregation. They were the sweetest people, very loving. We felt REALLY welcomed by all of them. That Sunday Maikon did the Bible school and taught the brethren the Discovery Bible Study.

Maikon teaching Sunday Bible Class



Wednesday Bible Class



Sunday



God's family

LITHUANIA

- We finally made it to Lithuania, in East Europe. Our Global Outreach team from Harding University was there for two weeks as we spent time encouraging the congregation in Vilnius and working at a kids camp! We were all very excited to serve the Lord in that beautiful country!
- For our last week in Lithuania, Tati and I — alongside our team of 8 other adults (and 3 kids) from Harding University Global Outreach Program, Matt Bell and Dee Was from Florida, and many Lithuanian counselors — worked at Ruta Christian Camp. It was an amazing experience working with all these 6 through 13 year-olds! Our team from HU planned and taught the daily Bible lessons and we also worked as counselors/chaperones. The Vilnius CoC does an amazing job reaching out to these kids and their families. We were so thankful that the Lord has allowed us to travel to Lithuania and be used by Him there!



Harding Team

Florida & Lithuania Team



Learning about Lithuanian history



Getting to know Vilnius, the capital city

Daily devotionals at the B&B





Youth night at the church in Vilnius



Getting ready for camp



Our cabins

Victoria, Lacey & Anne Marie, Our amazing college girls

Evening devotional



Ice cream social

Brazil, Lithuania & Russia learning about the Discovery Bible Study



Juozas, the preacher in Vilnius



About to leave the campgrounds



Worship service at the church in Vilnius, after camp, with some kids and parents





FUTURE PLANS:

Now that we have been in Europe and surveyed Portugal, we feel much more ready and prepared to make a final decision about where we will be going to work as full-time missionaries. Will it be Portugal or South Florida? It's all in the Lord's hands. Please pray for us as we will be making this VERY IMPORTANT decision in the next few months. We already have a couple of churches that have demonstrated interest in partnering with us and we will be having meetings with their mission committees soon.

P.S.: As always, don't forget to check out our blog whenever you have a chance <http://borbasmissionexperience.missionsplace.com>. The blog and our social media venues (Facebook and Instagram) remain the best ways to stay up-to-date with what we have been up to.

In Jesus' love,

Maikon and Tati Borba