



Bob Leshner

NEWSLETTER

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Hello, my friends. Thank you again for connecting through the newsletter. I appreciate your interest in the ministry here in Macapá. Thank you for your prayers and financial giving. I really appreciate it.

This month's letter, I thought I would talk about birthdays. My birthday was September 14. I thought I would give a little insight into the Brazilian culture by explaining a little about it.

The Brazilian as a culture cultivate close personal relations. One clear way they do this is by celebrating Birthdays. Birthdays in Brazil are very important to be recognized and to participate by attending and bringing a gift. The party can be very extravagant in terms number of guest the decorations and the location where the party is held. But, more commonly it is an intimate affair with family and friends. Normally this is done as a surprise party.

In living here in Brazil for ten years I have observed the following formality. There is a table set up and decorated with personal items, including favorite colors favorite sport teams or something a person is well know for. A well decorated cake sets in the middle. Presents are on the table or very close. The person stands behind the table and the Brazilian's "Happy Birthday" song is sung. After this, the person makes a little speech. It is a very heart felt speech of gratitude and appreciation. Very often tears are expressed in gratitude. Sometimes it is funny because the person may feel a little embarrassed. Or the person tells a funny story.

As an outsider, this is one of the most impressive things about the Brazilian culture. They are deeply connected to their family and friends. It is very endearing! Next, food is served. They have a "finger food" called

Salgadinhos. A very traditional dish is called Vatapa. It is served with rice and reminds me of the Chinese chicken sauce that Chinese restaurants sever with "Wor shu ga" It looks and taste similar. There is also the traditional picture taking time. Friends and family each take a turn behind the table with the person to have their photo taken. Finally, this is no small thing to do. There is a lot of work to be done. I have felted really loved by the people when they have celebrated my birthday like this.

Below, you can see the theme of the party. The Buckeyes! It was quite a clandestine operation to get all the information.





Ok my friends! Hope you enjoyed this little experience in Brazil with me! Please pray for us. We are starting another construction project soon. You will be hearing mor about it in NEWSLETTERS to come.We would appreciate your prayers for this significant project! God Bless you all. I'm praying for you!