

Friends:

Life is slowly returning to something that resembles normal. Our hearts still ache with our (temporary) loss of Hadassah, and Carol Sue and Keila especially will still need time as they process the deep emptiness and exhaustion left after the last 2 years of intense investment in her life. But our hope continues stronger than ever in divine grace, providence, goodness and love, which have sustained us.

By God's grace, we had already cleared most of our calendar of outside travel commitments for the first half of 2019, so our ministry focus will be our classes at **Word of Life Seminary** and serving at **First Baptist Church of Atibaia**. Then, as God allows, we hope to resume our national and international travel schedule the second half of 2019 and in 2020.

We understand that God has also providentially given us this time to dedicate ourselves to preserving the fruits of the last 30+ years of spoken and written ministry. With regard to the former, I will resume recording 18 minute radio messages in Portuguese for the **BBN radio network**. So far we have 290 messages recorded that air on weekends around Brazil and online.

In terms of writing, for many years, friends and family in the US and around the world have asked us to make our books available in English, and not just Portuguese and Spanish. And so we will soon be releasing some of our titles in English, three books at a time, on **Amazon/Kindle**. These texts will also be made available to Word of Life ministries around the world for use with their local staffs as well as possible translation into local languages and dialects and the furtherance of their ministries.

We'll send you the link to Amazon as soon as the first three books are available, but here are the titles:

****The Grandparents' Legacy (with Mary-Ann Cox)***

****101 Creative Ideas for Family Worship and Instruction***

****The Treasure Map: Devotions for Teens in Proverbs***

On the home front, we are actively and anxiously preparing for the June 15 wedding of **Keila to Fabrício**, a fine young man and engineer from our church. Son **David (with Adriana)** is being prepared to assume the lead pastor role at First Baptist of Atibaia, our church of 1300 members and a worldwide outreach through its "Preach the Word" ministry... Daughter **Shelly (with Ben)** is expecting their 5th child any moment now - our 15th grandchild... Son **Daniel (with Rachel)** is finishing his assignment as a captain and soon-to-be major in the USAF Security Forces at Whiteman AFB, expecting to relocate to Lackland AFB, Texas, later this year... Son **Stephen (with Hannah)** will be preparing for his ordination this year as he continues as co-pastor of Hillside Haven Community Church in Clarks Summit, PA. He and Hannah continue to process their loss of Hadassah, who was to be their adopted daughter in 2019... **Julie** has moved back to Atibaia with her son Isaac and is active in her church.

We are grateful for your loving concern and prayers for our family and ministry.

Dave and Carol Sue

David J. Merkh
Word of Life International
www.palavraefamilia.org.br

Escute nosso programa "Palavra e Família" nos fins de semana:

Sábado: 3:00, 9:00, 17:30

Domingo: 3:00, 13:30, 20:30

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