

Dear friends!

After the last information sent out in the 4th Changsha Newsletter end of 2007 and the information email "Stranded in Changsha" in January this year there was no more update coming from my side in the last months. Sorry about that, we had some really busy times here. Well here is what happened since you last heard from me.

Changsha:

I finally managed to get out of Changsha beginning of February, after being stuck for 5 days due to the harsh weather conditions. I had already given up my hope for a flight and had some train tickets organized when the manager of our administration department came running into my office and told me the news that the airport would be open this afternoon for 2 "test" flights to Beijing. Well – I arrived at the airport on time and with Mr. Lu's help and a lot of Guangxi I got a seat on the plane.

Germany:

Back in Germany I could relax for 2 weeks. Not really relaxing because there



were a lot of things to be done. Visit friends and go shopping, prepare for our future in Brazil. I don't know if I had already written this before: We were about to move from China to Germany and I was already planning one year off work to go to Brazil when I finally received an offer from Bosch to take over the Controlling department in the Braking division of Bosch in Campinas. It was more or

less exactly what I was looking for, a local contract with no time limitations after which we have to go back to Germany.

Hotels and houses:

So we arrived in Campinas mid of February and moved with our 4 suitcases to the Royal Palm residence hotel in the center of Campinas. The sea freight we could send directly from China to Brazil, but this would take some time to arrive here. We still had two weeks left to organize ourselves before I had to start working. Organize ourselves means looking for a house to live in and we realized that some things had changed in Campinas during the last 3 years. Especially prices were up at least 20-30% (inflation sucks ...) and the Brazilian Real gained a lot of value compared to the EURO. So we did a LOT of house hunting, luckily I had already to start working before it "really" started (we had a

3 day workshop where I took part already) and Maria visited and compared a lot of houses: 55 houses overall.

In the end we could not really decide for one, either the location was not perfect, or the house did not have a view, or it did not have a pool, or it did not have a workshop.

In the meantime we moved from Royal Palm residence hotel to Vinhedo Plaza hotel, a nice new hotel in Vinhedo, a smaller town about 20 km from Campinas. There we stayed until we finally moved to our house – rented – beginning of June. As we could not find our dream-house, we decided to move into the house of our friends Silke and Torsten who went back to Germany end of May (the pictures are of our now new house).



New car:

It did not take us too long to find a new car. The brand was clear; it had to be a Troller again. So we were looking in the internet on a Brazilian site for used cars for 2005 models (which are still working with the mechanical Bosch diesel pump and somewhat more robust than the newer model). Maria found a well known name who obviously wanted to sell his car. Omar, a friend from São Paulo, was selling his 2005 Troller because he and his wife had just moved into a new apartment and wanted to spend the money on more reasonable things. Good for us, we drove to São Paulo the following weekend and had a good look at the car. Fortunately we also knew the guy who did the regular inspections on the car - Marcello – and he confirmed that the car is still in top condition. Omar is different from us; he likes to drive his car on paved roads. So we had a deal and a new car!



Fred in Campinas:



Fred, our friend from Changsha times had the chance to visit us in Campinas during a business trip. Too bad our house was not set up for a real Brazilian churrasco (BBQ) yet, but at least we could take the chance to have dinner in an original churrascaria...

First trip to the sea:

Last weekend we did our first weekend trip to the sea. Vinhedo is strategically very good located because it is already about 20 km in the direction of São Paulo. So we hit the road at about 10 am on Saturday and arrived in São Paulo short time later, looking for the highway down to the sea. If you take one of the highways that lead from São Paulo to Santos, you really have some spectacular views when you drive from the mountains (serra do mar) down to the sea level. We had a short walk in Riviera de São Lourenço and later we had lunch in Barra de Una, a great place with spectacular view to a sand bank where a river flows into the sea. Later in the afternoon we drove through the mountains and crossed São Paulo from the other side. We were lucky with the traffic and it only took us about 2 and a half hours to come back from the sea to Vinhedo.

