

Missão Aracaju

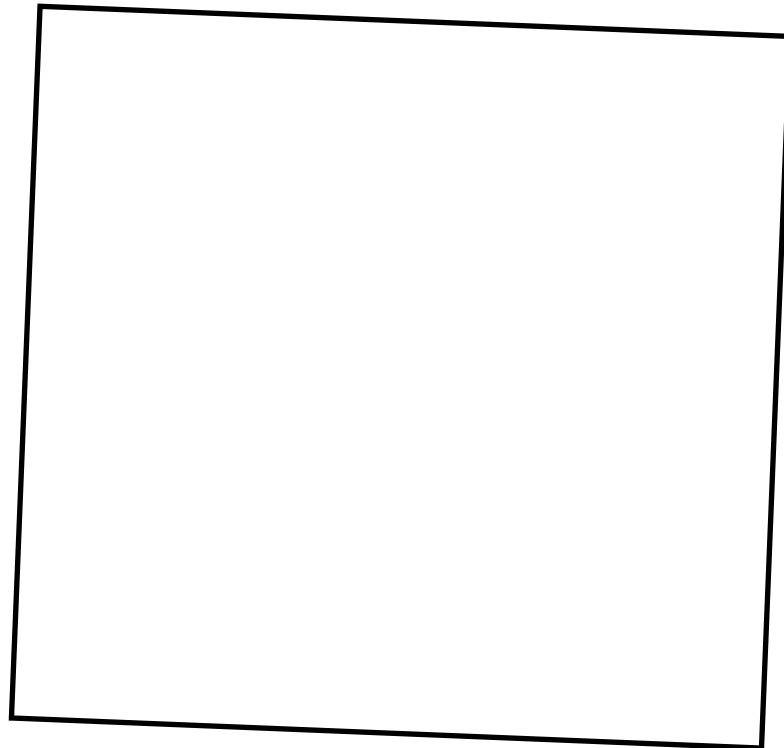
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Watching the Son Rise
in Aracaju



Marie's Article cont....

they are trying to kill me too."
1Kings 19:9-10

Not that anyone is trying to kill me, but the grand mass production of false teaching in the study Bibles and Christian books, videos, in school and on television seem every bit as daunting as Elijah's task must have seemed to him and our efforts seem minuscule in comparison to the opposition. I remind myself that God sees things differently than I do... Paul says it so eloquently to me.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2Cor. 4:7... "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2Cor. 12:9

If only every day could be a Mt. Carmel day. Hahaha That would be my foolish choice.

Amber and Joshua have called off their engagement. It is one of those little disappointments I was talking about earlier.

I ask for your prayers for the family that we introduced on page 2. They have many obstacles to over-



Cristina and Marie

come to fully accept the truth that Jesus offers. Pray for me to reach out to Maxilane. There are still many days when the Portuguese language feels like a heavy and blunt instrument to use. On those days, it's harder to reach out to someone.

I also need your prayers concerning my friend Cristina in the picture below. She is a teacher here in Brazil and she believes she is a Christian. She doesn't believe that she needs anything and that's the hardest place to start from. She has become a precious friend to me and I would like nothing more than to see her step into the glorious light.

Thank-you for your prayers. What we do here is possible because of your faithfulness. I think of you

often and I love you all! *Marie*



Aracaju, Brasil

Robert & Marie Ledbetter

Missão Aracaju

Vol 4 Issue 2

Watching the Son Rise in Aracaju

March/April 2008

Open House...

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Prayer Requests:

- * Pray that the church here would continue to grow and have unity.
- * Pray that these new Christians would grow in Christ.
- * Thank God for the truth-seeking people He has led us to meet.
- * Pray for Amber and John as they work on their respective AIM fields.
- * Thank God for the continued health of Marie's grandmother and father.

Funny how things don't always turn out the way that you imagined. In our January letter to you I shared about the group of people that met in Dona Nilza's house. So full of hope and so full of people.

Well, in February they have this little holiday here called Carnival... you may have heard of it. Anyway I think it's actually the biggest celebration that happens in the whole world. It's a nationwide party that starts on a Friday afternoon and ends the following Wednesday at 6 in the morning. Ash Wednesday in fact, but that's another story. Lots of drinking and dancing, street parties, loud music and of course as the name implies, it's a party of the "freeing of

the flesh". Not that I'm judging them. But I do grieve. Sinners sin... it's their job description.

In reality, not everyone likes the holiday. The party gets so big and so bad and so loud in places, that people actually leave the city to go to their family's holiday house in the country just to get away from the "bagunça e barulho" or "the mess and the racket". And since here in Brazil people get one month off for vacation (I'm not kidding - a whole month federally mandated paid vacation!), lots and lots of families leave for the whole month of February. What could be better, a month-long family reunion in the country?

Dona Nilza's family is one of those families - so they closed down the house here in Aracaju, except for the maid, and headed out. I thought, well, no problem; we'll just pick up where we left off the first of March. And we would have... except that Dona Nilza's oldest daughter Glade (54) died without any kind of warning from a heart attack. That was the night before we were to start meeting again. And Glade was the most exuberant, receptive, and encouraging of the whole bunch. I was profoundly sad. I'm sure it was the result of a combination of other deaths of people close to me in the same period, but I felt like, at least in this

cont. on pg.2

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Is. 41:10

Life is full of victories and disappointments. I'm thinking of Elijah's great victory and the faith he showed Israel against the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. Then, after that fleeting high, he was running for his life and filled with despair at the seeming enormity of the task.

His words often come to mind as I sometimes feel the same way he must have felt. *And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now*

cont. on pg.4

Rob's Article cont...

case, I had failed in my mission task. I'm going to have to spend some time with this thought.

The end result is this – one month for holidays and 6 weeks for grieving has all but disbanded such an amazing study group.

Several of us have been by to see Dona Nilza since her loss but she said that she didn't feel up to having a study in her house again just yet. But thanks in large part to all the visits by Eduardo, and Libia and me, it looks like were tentatively back on for May 8th. I'll keep you posted as to how this study starts up again.

In the mean time, Eduardo and I are still having a discipleship study together on Friday afternoons that has really challenged him to grow. Then afterwards, around 5 or so there's a study with a group of people in a house close to him in bairro "13 de Julho".

Dona Cicera (73) actually owns the house, but as in the case with Dona Nilza over in bairro Segueri Campos, the house is a focal point for her ex-

tended family. Eduardo and I have been studying with the family since late November but they have been long time friends of Eduardo's family going back some 50 years. Understandably, Eduardo is very excited to see if a church will take root in their home.

We've always had a visitor or two from the neighborhood that sit in on the study but no one has really stuck. Consistently there have been 5 of us who study the life of Christ together and I can see for some that it's transformational. But in the last 6 weeks our little study has changed a bit. A man named Augusto has crept into the circle. He is the neighborhood mechanic who always shows up with grease still on his hands. Everyone in the area knows him he's very talented. Dona Cicera just shakes her head every Friday night as he shuffles off after the study. He's built and lost businesses in the neighborhood at least twice because of alcohol abuse and family problems – bad family problems. Timid at first but now asking more and more questions, he's coming to grips that Jesus could actually hold out salvation to a man like him. That kind of interest has

sparked the others to probe a little bit deeper in their own lives and attitudes.

Eduardo is very excited about our time together on Fridays with Dona Cicera and with good reason. Dona Cicera has agreed to open up her house to start having a worship service on Sunday afternoons starting in May. It's a good study and I really think something meaningful will come of it in the near future.

At the same time however, it's given me a lot to think about in my approach to sharing the good news. I think it's time to pause and re-evaluate mission strategy in this culture and change some things up. Not changing the mission task, but rather some refinements that will make what we're doing more duplicate-able and hopefully our time with people more effective. Keep us in your prayers that we would draw the right conclusions from what we've learned about culture and language – and especially homes – continue to open up before us.

Watching the Son rise in Aracaju.

-rob

Meet some seekers in the new congregation in Bairro Jardins!

We met Jefferson through Camargo and his friends who meet to drink coffee regularly across from our house. We came to know his wife and family when they attended a Christian seminar here in Aracaju.

Jefferson works for an Oil Company here in Sergipe and Maxilane is attending college. Their 2 year old son, Jonathan is as smart as he is cute.

This family has been searching

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Mt. 7:7



Maxilane, Jefferson & Jonathan

for a church home for many years now. They want to follow the Bible and be a part of the "primitive church". Pray for us as we try to be a spiritual "family" for them.

We are proud to serve this wonderful family as we try to glorify God more in our lives here in this city. Thank-you for all your prayers.

God is listening and He IS answering!!

A Note from Morwyn

Hello all- been a while hasn't it? Well, in my world it has been quite eventful! One of our Brazilian friends is an English teacher and she asked my father and I to come and speak English with some of her classes. So every Monday we've been going out to the school to help out.

I must say Brazilian classes are quite hectic. Our schools would seem like prisons to them! They chat and draw and play games



during the class! xD Crazy, but also a lot of fun!

I also celebrated my 18th birthday in April! 8D Can you believe it? Hurrah for me! ha ha

Anyway, I'm so excited about the things we're doing here! I can't wait for the coming months! It truly is a blessing to be here, I love you all! See you next time ;D

Morwyn

Smiley Face Key for Morwyn's note:

xD = Big Smile with eyes scrunched

8D = Big smile with eyes bugging out

:D = A wink and a smile



Left: Morwyn & Some Good Friends

Below: Rob teaching

Lower Left: Libia, Marie, Keli & Jean



And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 1Thes. 5:14