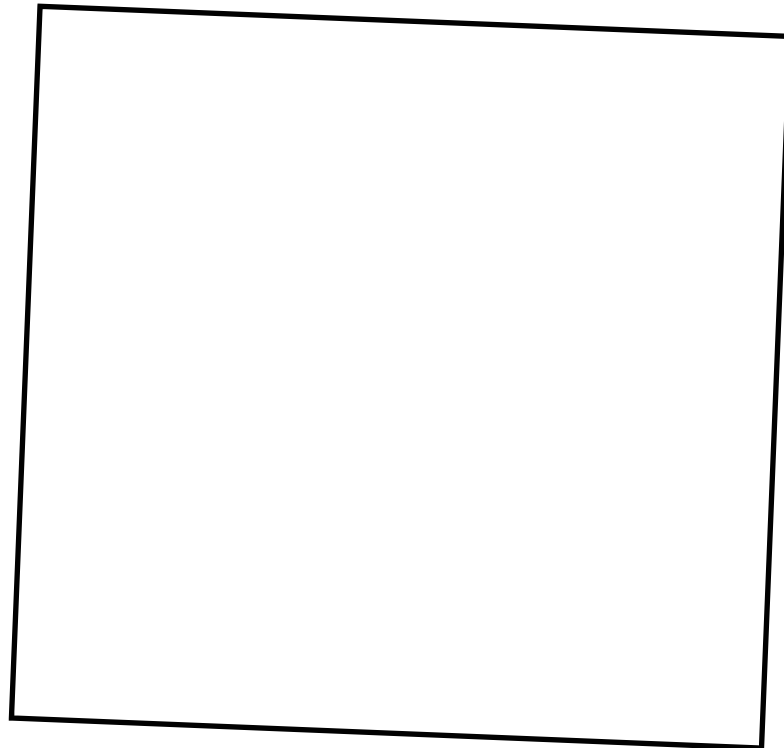


Missão Aracaju

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Watching the Son Rise
in Aracaju

Marie's Article cont....

Libia—is the lady we baptized in December. She meets regularly with us here in Jardins. We also study in her home on Tuesday nights. My neighbor **Sara**—she has two little boys and they live next door to us. **Maria**—a lady with two grown children who is a “dona de casa” (housewife) who lives on the 5th floor of our building. **Racquel**—a grandmother who lives directly above us. **Neve**—the mother of one of Rob's friends who loves to help me with my Portuguese. She is a nurse. **Ana Paula** and **Socorro**—Ana Paula's mother. My kids met Ana Paula when we first arrived. She has become a treasured friend. **Cristina**—I talked about her last

month she is a teacher and a good friend of mine. **Mari**—I met Mari through our small group in our house. She is Fabula's acquaintance and lives in our neighborhood a few condominios over. **Fabula**—who worships with us sometimes on Sunday's she is Pentecostal and I believe that she is a little mentally challenged, but she loves to talk to me and she is very sweet. She doesn't seem to mind my language errors and she introduces me to lots of her acquaintances. She lives here in our condominio but in a different building. **Carla**—another acquaintance of Fabula who lives here in our condominio but in another building also. Carla has two children and is a single mom. **Keli**—Jean's wife. She is a baptized believer who

meets with us here in Jardins and is expecting her first child. **Maxilane**—is the wife of Jefferson who works in the oilfield here. She has a 2 yr. old son and attends the university here.

Please join me in praying for these 13 women. Pray for their receptivity and for our relationships. They are the women that God has brought into my life that I am currently praying specifically for God to help me deepen my relationship with them and to help me share my faith with them. Please pray for me as I struggle in Portuguese and as I reach out in different areas to these women. Thank-you for your prayers. I appreciate and love you all!

Marie



Aracaju, Brasil

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Prayer Requests:

- * Pray that the church here would continue to grow and have unity.
- * Pray for the new group in the neighborhood "13 de Julho".
- * 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.
- * Pray for the women from Marie's article.

Robert & Marie Ledbetter

Missão Aracaju

Vol 4 Issue 3

Watching the Son Rise in Aracaju

May 2008

Re Grouping

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot... a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them... Eccl 3:1-2,5a

It's "winter" here again and the winds and the rains have picked up. Some evenings the wind is blowing so hard that the rain just comes in horizontally. (It's a lot like spring in Lubbock – except it's a blinding rain and not red New Mexico sand. I always get a kick out of seeing the Brazilians huddled together for warmth at the bus stops with their down jackets and umbrellas. It gives me some secret pleasure to be able to wear shorts and a t-shirt. I mean come on, it's 72 degrees!

In the winter the sun does set a little earlier like about fifteen to twenty minutes or so. Just early enough to make it dark by the time I

catch the right series of busses to make it over to the plaza in Siqueira Campos. May 22nd was just one of those evenings... cold rainy and dark. And to be honest with you by the time I got there I was wet and I had goose-bumps. (Not shivering you know!) I sat down at the little luncheonette where Eduardo and I usually meet and waited. And kept waiting for about 30 minutes.

Finally Eduardo called me and told he that he just couldn't get there that night. A little disappointed, I trudged down the 4 blocks or so alone to Dona Nilsa's house.

Nobody was home. So I

slogged back to the plaza. I felt like a lone fisherman going back home with an empty bucket.

As I sat down to shake off the "chill" with a cup of coffee, I consoled myself with the fact that we have had some really good studies there. God has shown Eduardo a lot of things through those studies, and he's getting a real feel for relating the story of Christ and not jumping straight to doctrine.

Still, I hate having an empty evening and there have been more and more of them on Thursdays when we're supposed to study there at Dona Nilsa's. In reality, it looks like the study

cont. on pg.2

Reaching Out

...a time to search and a time to give up... Eccl. 3:6a

Hello friends and family, I want to talk to you a little bit about some of the women that I am involved with in varying degrees. These are women that I have some kind of relationship with and I am praying for an opening to study the Bible with them. I am also always pray-

ing for God to give me courage in Portuguese. I have a friend who told me that he likes to listen to me speak Portuguese because when I can't think of the word I need I apparently substitute a sound - which seems to communicate and they find endearing. I'll take it! As long as they understand what I'm trying to say.

cont. on pg.4

Rob's Article cont...

in Siqueira Campos is just not going to take off again. But I hate to admit defeat so I'm going to keep visiting the family periodically since we've developed a friendship of sorts. We've broadcast a lot of seed there in that house with a lot of people. The discipleship time with Eduardo has been really rewarding. Who knows, maybe it's a relationship that I can keep on the back burner. I'm not going to give up on them, just prioritize that time for something more productive for the moment.

Among other things, I have also discovered a discipleship principal at work in all of this. There is sort of a cycle of thrust and conserve. It seems like every few months there is a flurry of activity that draws in some really close relationships. Then there is a time where we have

to pull back the throttle on developing new relationships and start investing heavily in doing some deep teaching with 3 or 4 individuals.

I'm just starting to get my mind around that dynamic in planting new churches. If things keep developing the way that they are, I'll soon be joined by Eduardo, Jean, and Camargo sharing the task of teaching and doing evangelism. There is still a lot of work to be done there, but these men are sharing what they know and it's exciting to be there when they are teaching someone else. I can see that soon, we will be working as a team of fishermen.

On Sunday, May 25th at 10:30 a group of Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper together for the first time in the house of Dona Cicera. There were 9 people in all. We sang and studied and prayed together. I taught, Eduardo led singing, and then afterwards Dona Ci-

cera had prepared a big lunch for all of us. She was just beaming and shuffling around the kitchen. Not all of her family participated in our "reunião" (reunion) as they like to call the assembly here. They may not have participated, but they had been listening and they had questions about things, so we did a little more table teaching as we broke bread together. And what can I say about Dona Cicera... she's just grandmotherly. As well as an excellent cook, she makes you feel like part of her family if you let her. Before long the photo albums were out and she was sharing with us "those photos" – you know the bathtub kind of pics that you're kids are embarrassed about? Yeah those! It really was a sweet fellowship and one of those moments that I'm going to cherish for a long, long time. A new fellowship of Christians is meeting in this sprawling city. Watching the Son rise in Aracaju.

-rob

A New Group is Meeting in Bairro "13 de Julho"

Robert and Eduardo have been studying in Dona Cicera's house for 7 months now on Friday nights. The regular attendees of that group have been begging Rob to do something with them on Sunday as well and we all met for the first time on

May 25th, 2008!!

We are excited about this group which is in Eduardo's neighborhood and made up of family and lifelong friends of Eduardo. We are excited as Eduardo begins to move into the phase of teaching others what he has learned. Rob's

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; Eccl 3:11a



Congregation of Seekers in Bairro "13 de Julho"

main focus on Friday nights has been to model for Eduardo how he can teach his friends. Dona Cicera is a baptized believer as is Eduardo. We are currently praying for Valene and her husband (not pictured) who are Dona Cicera's grandchildren and for Augusto a neighbor. From left to right Elizabeth, Valene, Eduardo, Wilma, Philippe, Augusto, Rob, Marie. Seated: Dona Cicera, & Morwyn. Keep praying... **God is listening and He IS answering!!**

Picture Gallery



Back: Karol, Marie, & Sylvania, Seated: Angela, & Bela

Angela, Bela & Marie meet bi-weekly to study together.



Above: Cristina teaching in one of the schools that Rob and Morwyn visit regularly.

Left: The regular group that meets in Jardins



Dengue and the Dollar

We are well on our way this year to getting our 90 inches of rain. In fact, if you'll look up this page on YouTube, you'll see just what I mean. <http://br.youtube.com/watch?v=TculBJ14XNc&mp:feature=user> This video footage was taken from the home of our brothers, Jean Lemos who lives in Bairro Santos Dumont. This is pretty much a weekly occurrence during the rainy season.

Because of all the rain, one thing we really have to be careful about here in Northeastern Brazil is mosquitoes. Right now, we don't have any problems here with yellow fever or malaria. We do however have a serious problem with Dengue hemorrhagic fever that is also carried by the little critters. Although it's not usually fatal, it has been declared an epidemic in Rio since March where they have been reporting over 50 cases an hour. There have been several hundred cases here in Aracaju and several places where Rob studies that have had family members that have become very, very sick. So far there have only been 7 deaths in Aracaju from the fever, but we just have to be careful. Using mosquito repellent with DEET is the best thing you can do.

That and staying hydrated if you do come down with it. We love the rain, but we could do without the mosquitoes!

On another front, please keep us in your prayers about being able to stay and continue working here. As some of you are well aware, the deteriorating value of the dollar is making a lot of missionaries rethink their time commitment to stay on the field. And we are not any different. The buying power of the dollar has dropped by almost 60% in Brazil during the last 36 months from what we budgeted. That is not even taking inflation into account as the price of food has almost doubled among other things. The way it looks now, we are going to have to raise \$1500 a month to continue working here until the exchange rate gets better. All that being said, if you know of any mission minded churches or individuals, please let us know. Rob is planning to make a trip back to the US in August or September to visit with some churches, so it would be helpful to make contact with them now. Keep us in your prayers and please e-mail any contact information that you might have to us at: rmled@juno.com.

I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil-- this is the gift of God. Eccl 3:12-13