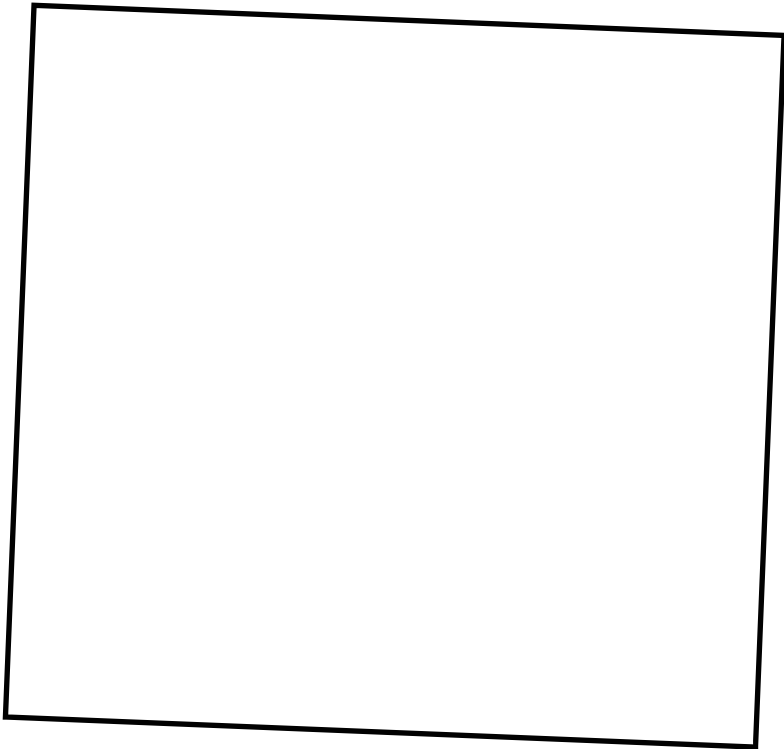


Missão Aracaju

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Waiting on the Lord.....cont.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14

About 3 weeks ago I got up from my grief and changed out of my proverbial sack-cloth and washed my face. I started a new translation project with Camargo and started one of my weekly bible studies back up. I've have company in my home the past two weekends and more is expected next week. I've started visiting my friends again and I'm working on a long-shelved personal cookbook that I've been dreaming about for quite a while now. I have plans for at least two more studies squeezed into my week somewhere and I'm excited about the two groups that we are currently worshipping with and a third one which may be forming in Orlando Dantas.

We are desperately trying to get a place rented in Bugio. The guy has come to a verbal agreement with us

and we are waiting for the re-model job on the place to be finished so we can move in and start meeting there. This has been an infuriatingly slow process with the usual Brazilian delays. Hahahaha God is still teaching me patience.

Rob and I are in a sweet place in our relationship. It has never been just him and I in our marriage and I am so grateful to all the Godly women along the way who counseled me to always remember to not neglect your marriage in your devotion to the care of your kids. One day your kids want to leave home and if you don't like your husband....then you're in for a world of hurt. It is a sweet, sweet time for us. Thank-you for your prayers for us in this transition.

Just a word about the spiritual retreat this year. This was the event

in 2005 where I fell in love with Brazil and Brazilians, so it has a special place in my heart. This year was different for many reasons. This was my first year with none of my kids with me. It was totally organized by the Brazilians and they did such a brilliant job that I was inspired to join in and help out more next year just as another set of hands. We also had several prospective Christians with us this year and their input was precious to me. It was just what I needed at just the right time. Isn't God just like that?

Thank-you for your prayers! God is amazing, patient and powerful and He is taking care of us.

I 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 people in the class at Luciano's school.
- * Pray for Amber and Phil as they start their married life together in Grass Valley, CA.
- * Pray for Johnathan as he works this Summer.
- * Pray as we plan to rent a place to meet in Bugio.
- * Pray for Morwyn that she will come back to the Lord.

Robert & Marie Ledbetter

Missão Aracaju

Vol 6 Issue 3

Watching the Son Rise in Aracaju

May/June 2010

Fast Forward

My toes are curling in my chinelas (flip flops). I'm becoming acutely aware that I'm biting my tongue, literally. A comment from the class on the nature of forgiveness has touched off powder keg of excitement in the class and nervousness in me.

Luciano is spontaneously teaching from Luke 15 tonight in the small group that meets in the classroom at his school. Nothing is wrong with what he is teaching, it's just not the way I would have said it. But it's my job at this stage with him to keep quiet while he teaches others what I have taught him.

And he is not without skill, I mean after all he is a teacher and he knows his audience in a lot of ways better than I do; he lives among them and sees many of them on a daily basis. His manner is a little bit more aggressive than I might take and I'm thinking I might need to talk to him about that. After all this is not one of his classes on computer maintenance or how to manipulate a spreadsheet in Excel. Now there, he needs to be a little more authoritative and a touch dogmatic.

But as I look around there are people nodding in agreement with his points,

his illustrations are effective; his forcefulness communicates to them. Pamela, Jessica, Luana, Katia, Veronica, Savio, Lucas, Luis, Abrãao – they get it when Luciano speaks.

Even Francisco Jose, who doesn't always agree with Luciano is here tonight and has been showing up the last couple of weeks. I didn't even know he lived in this same neighborhood let alone just around the corner from the school.

But Luciano remembered his interest in the Word, from a Sunday night worship we had had last

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that confess his name. Heb 13:15

cont. on pg.2

Waiting on the Lord

It's been a hard couple of months. The Morwyn situation completely took the wind out of my sails. I have cried and gone through all the "what ifs" and "if only I'd..." thoughts. I think that's a natural process, but as much as you would like to, you can't make choices for your kids and you can't live their lives for them. I'm a bit of a control freak and so this hits me harder than some. Hahaha I'm laughing at myself, because it is better than crying. I am thankful for the host of people who

love me and my family who are praying for her to repent and come back to her spiritual family and to her physical family as well, but the reality may be that I have to wait many, many years for this to happen. I think I can live with that. I trust that God is not nearly as limited as I am and that gives me a lot of comfort. I trust Him and I've put this situation completely into His hands.

cont. on pg.4

Rob's Article cont.

year at our house way across town. That and the study I had done in neighboring bairro of Santos Dumont in the house of Jean and Keli Santos last winter.

He knew him in an instant even in the dark as he walked down the street, and called him in. Now he's coming every Sunday as well. He has a great singing voice, a genuine desire to worship the Lord, and a keen memory of doctrine. It's been so good to see him.

Evanildo sits opposite and is Luciano's right hand man at the school. They work well together and tonight they are working as a team. Luciano asks probative questions about the verses we're studying and Evanildo helps to redirect the answers when the group gets to wandering around and chasing rabbits. Sometimes he just interrupts with a spontaneous prayer that fits so beautifully with the theme that we are discussing that I know that only the Spirit armed with the word of God could have challenged a man to pray like that.

Fast forward to another night in

Bairro Rosa Elze. Again with Haroldo and his family and friends where they have asked Eduardo and I to teach a study on faith.

Here in this group, Haroldo doesn't say too much, he just listens until he has heard everyone and then pronounces his thoughts. His boys Aquila (15) and Alessandro (13) pay close attention as their father combines years of experience with the truths that he is hearing from the word of God.

Deeply spiritual women, Jeanne and their two daughters, Nyara (22) and Rebeka (16), are wonderful servants with strong opinions on scripture but there is a clear deference to Haroldo on doctrinal matters. One thing among many that I really admire about this man is that when he sees something in the bible, he is humble enough to change to be like the kind of man he sees God calling him to be. I can tell from the attitude of his family what an impact his thoughts and life have in shaping them.

But it's not just them, old friends have started coming to their house for our studies and I wonder how long it will be before we begin to baptize and disciple people from their recent past.

Fast forward again to our 3 day spiritual retreat and I have the opportunity to watch many of these same people serving one another with the other members of the Lord's body from all over the state. I have the opportunity to sit in on a discussion group with Luciano, Evanildo, Francisco Jose, Haroldo and his boys. Their thoughts and prayers are amazing.

Two years of seed planting and watering, struggling to see if churches will take root in several neighborhoods... this is very satisfying. God is praised in Aracaju because of you.

Watching the Son rise in Aracaju
-rob

Luciano teaching Luke



7th Annual Spiritual Retreat, June 2010

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Pet 4:10



Our theme this year was, "OUR MOST URGENT MISSION—SAVING SOULS"

It was a wonderful time of fellowship among all the congregations here in the state of Sergipe. This was the first year that the Brazilian brethren organized everything. They did a fabulous job!! We were excited to have many from both the groups that we worship with in Bugio and Rosa Elze.

Thank-you for your prayers for unity among the congregations here. God is answering our prayers in a beautiful way!!

Picture Gallery



Above—Rob teaching at the Retreat
Below—Pamela, Nyara and Jeanne in a women's prayer group at the Retreat



Above— Marie & Jeanne
Left—Rebekah and Luana in a women's prayer group
Below—Haroldo, Rob and Luciano



Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8

News About Morwyn

We would covet your prayers in a special matter that involves Morwyn our precious daughter and sister in Christ. Without going into all of the gory details it suffices to say that, after attending the classroom session of Adventures In Missions at Sunset, she has decided to pursue a life of immorality while studying art design in Europe. Much of what she has been deceived by has its roots in a childhood situation that hurt her deeply and she has never fully recovered from. We do not share this confidence lightly and after talking with many wise men are asking you all to pray that God would break her heart and the worldly enchantment that has so deceived her. Even if that means a trip to the figurative pig pen to have her eyes opened to her reality. Please pray that perhaps she would literally come back from "the far country." We would also covet your prayers on our behalf as a family as we struggle with our own disappointment and try to minister to her. As you have always loved us, we remain in that debt.

Rob and Marie