

Brazil Mission Report June 2019

Mark, Ju, Deborah, Barbara White



Our God is an Awesome God! God bless you as you continually serve him and look to bring him glory and honor in all that you do. May the Lord bless your family and congregation where you are serving the Lord. It is hard to believe that two years will have passed this August that we are living here in Texas now, but the Lord has continued to work mightily in the work in Brazil. It is truly a blessing to see how the Lord is faithful and what he has done through your partnership with us in the spreading of the gospel.

We would like to send out this report to let you know what the Lord has been doing in Brazil over this past year and a half. The last report I sent out was six months after being here in December 2017-January 2018. Since that time, we have had the blessing for a reverse furlough to Brazil last summer and a mission group from Daingerfield church of Christ in July of 2018. Juaneylla also recently was a speaker at a

National Women's Retreat in Porto Alegre this past month. Other opportunities for her to speak in Brazil are on the horizon.

Deborah just finished her first year of college at Harding University and is presently on a six-week mission trip to New Zealand and Fiji. Lord willing, she will arrive back home on the 3rd of July. Barbara will be a junior in high school this next year. She has been keeping herself busy with a summer camp held by the churches of Christ in the Northeastern part of Texas as well as being involved in the summer youth activities.



This report will focus mainly on keeping you up to date with what is going at the church in Agronomia and Zona Sul, the mission trip this past year, as well as updates on Rafael, Maikon and Tati, Leonel and Vanete, and Ju's recent trip. God bless you.

The church in Agronomia has been blessed with new brothers and sisters in Christ. Soon after we left you may remember me writing about a group studying at the house of Lauro and Lorena. The Lord



truly opened a large door for evangelism through this group. Josue from Zona Sul has been faithfully teaching them every Tuesday night for the last two years and we are happy to say much fruit has come from this

work. The group meets in the city of Canoas. The group has become already a vital part of the work in Agronomia. Many of them were

directly impacted by the love the church has shown to Lauro and Lorena when a storm flooded their house. Congregations from the Lord's church in Brazil and the U.S. helped financially to provide material to rebuild. Seeing the church loving in such a way made an impact on those who heard of this blessing.

Praise God also that the members of the church have taken on the work with great joy and love for the Lord. Agronomia continues to be blessed in its couple's ministry, men's ministry, women's ministry, youth and children's ministry, and evangelism and edification. This one of the greatest joys to see how the Lord continues to work after the missionary has gone and the church continues in the grace of the Lord.



One blessing the Lord has given recently to the church in Agronomia is the opportunity to acquire the building where they have been worshipping. Certainly, we can see the Lord's hand and will being done in this blessing. We would like to thank the church in Daingerfield and some individual donors who helped in the acquisition of the building. In fact, the



church in Agronomia, by their own means, have begun reforming the building. The reforms will add more space to the auditorium area for the growth that has been occurring and Lord willing will continue to occur until the Lord comes. They also have a whole building in the back that will provide for all the Bible classes for the children. In between that area, they have already been reforming an old kitchen and fellowship area.

Please be praying for the church in Agronomia to continue their focus on evangelism and edification of the church. Keeping this focus will remind them of the purpose the Lord has given them by His grace to obtain this property to be used for His glory.

Another blessing is the church located in Zona Sul where Josue works as their preacher/evangelist. You may remember many years ago they had to sell their building to the city because of the upcoming



World Cup after they had just finished reforms. It was a hard time, but they were

blessed to sell and had the means to purchase property in another part of the Southern part of the city. They also have been blessed with growth through evangelizing the area and many of the extended relatives of the families from the congregation. They also decided that it was time for reforms to take place in order to accommodate the growth that the Lord has given. They had an engineer draw up the plans with the help of an architect from the church in Novo Hamburgo, who also helped Agronomia. The reforms will be finished this July and we are excited to see how the Lord continues to bless the congregation. We are thankful for individuals and congregations that were able to help in obtaining the funds needed to finish the reforms.

Josue continues teaching and preaching during the week in many of the family groups from Zona Sul. He and his wife Kaka now have two little children. A son named Lucas, and a daughter Deborah. The congregation is growing, and we pray for the many lives that will be



touched through their effort to reach the lost and draw closer to God each day.

We were blessed with a mission trip held by the church of Christ in

Daingerfield where we were able to see what the Lord has been doing in most of the congregations in the state. They were able to visit Zona Sul, Agronomia, Lucas, Novo Hamburgo, and see some members from Viamao and Caxias do Sul. While the mission team was there they were able to see how the work was going on in reference to the building at Zona Sul and were able to look at the building of Agronomia and talk with some of the men of the congregation about the opportunity to acquire the building. The church in Daingerfield has a great relationship with all the congregation and their love and support over the years has left an impact on so many of the brothers and sisters in Christ. Just as all of you have over the years that we served in the South through our partnership in the gospel.

This past mission trip the theme of the trip was "Juntos", which means together. It was truly a mission trip where the Lord gave a plethora of opportunities to be together in fellowship, service, and love for one another. The church held two Vacation Bible schools; one at Agronomia and the other at an orphanage located near where the church meets in Agronomia. All that came on the trip had a servant's attitude and were willing to serve in every way.



VBS Agronomia & Orphanage

We also had the opportunity to work on Vanda's house located in Cantao which is within walking distance of the church building at Agronomia. We cleaned, painted, and decorated the house of this servant of the Lord. Juaneylla took care of most of the details and



Reforms & Dedication @ Vanda's

Luis took care of

all the paperwork from Zona Sul regarding planning this work on the house. The house that Vanda had lived in was the one where when a storm came up everyone would call Vanda to see if her house was

still standing. It was an old house with holes in the walls, wires hanging down, and the floor about to totally cave in. Praise God, she has a new house made from a wood that will last and that now has room for her daughter and grandson that live with her. She is forever thankful and has been a dear servant of the Lord over all the years we were in Porto Alegre. She had taken care of our girls when they were little and took care of the mission team whenever anyone was sick. She is loved by all the congregations in the South and all over Brazil literally. Also, during this time the sisters from the congregation in Cantao provided most of the meals during the week in Cantao as they were working on the house.

The church in Zona Sul also had a special Sunday with the church from Daingerfield where we met at a different location for worship and afterwards enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship



with BBQ that was made and prepared by the brethren along with many other foods. They wanted to thank them for how they had helped in the reforms being done at Zona sul. The church in Agronomia also participated in worship this day and the fellowship meal. It was a time to grow the already strong relationships and make new ones. We were also very blessed to give Barbara a surprise "15 years old, Quinze Anos" birthday party at the location. Tears came to her eyes as she was overcome with emotion from the love received from all that were present. We were very thankful to the Lord that she had this moment especially since we had moved back to the states. We loved surprising her.



The church in Agronomia also had a special time with Daingerfield at a Bible study group that meets in Canoas at the house of Milton and Janaina, brother and sister in law of Lorena and recent converts to Christ. They invited the group over and we enjoyed a time of singing and study at their house and fellowship afterward. Lauro made his famous enterveiro, which many from Daingerfield always look forward to while on the trip.

We also had the opportunity to be with the church in Novo Hamburgo and it was a great time of joy. We had the opportunity to visit a children's home, an assisted living place for older people, and take part in a gospel meeting that night as Daingerfield does what they always do by using their voices in praise to God. We also were able to be witnesses of a baptism and welcome our new brother in Christ. In fact, we made the newspaper for the city because of our presence and it was a great write up on our purpose their to share the gospel and love of Jesus. Some were also interviewed for the paper.



As we said the theme of the trip was "Juntos" and the Lord truly blessed the mission trip with many times to be together. We are also thankful that Daingerfield gave us the time for a reverse furlough which gave us time to visit Ju's family and prepare for the mission work that would be done upon the arrival of Daingerfield. To God be the



glory. One of the blessings on this trip is that we had Rafael that was there to help us translate as well as Maikon and Tati. They served the mission team well and certainly vital to the work that was

done. Maikon and Tati are now expecting a little girl that is already named Joanna. They have been trying to have children for a while and we are excited for them. They will be finishing their time up in Harding this next year and seriously considering to do mission work

among the Brazilian population that lives in Florida. They have done a study trip and found that in one city it is mainly Brazilian with even stores and the main language in the area being Portuguese. In fact, they said they spoke Portuguese for almost the entire time they were there. They are also considering some other places; we ask you to continue to pray for them as the Lord leads them to the work He has planned for them.

Leonel and Vanete, who were from Viamao, have lived in Campo Grande ever since studying at SER CRIS in 2007 and planted a congregation in a new neighborhood of the city while helping many congregations in the area have now moved to Ponto Grosso this year to begin a new mission work/church plant along with Roberto and Marisa from Natal and Rui and Nadia from Caxias do Sul. Please be praying for this new church plant. May the Lord bless.

Speaking of Campo Grande, Rafael is doing great. He has already finished his two-year study at SER CRIS and will be attending the graduation ceremony this next month. He served the church in Campo Grande in teaching and song leading while in Campo Grande and will be missed by the brethren there. He has recently moved to Niteroi, Brazil where he will be an apprentice intern for long time missionary Nathan Zinck. May the Lord bless the opportunities that He has given him, and may Rafael continue growing daily. I will also leave a message from Rafael that I translated into English for you:



MESSAGE FROM RAFAEL

Two years have gone by since I left Porto Alegre, in June of 2017, in the search for knowledge from God's Word, a to understand my faith and the church better.

I had no idea of what would happen, not even knowing what was before me, much less of what would happen afterwards. In this way, I found my strength and dependence in God, and also in my brothers, and I could not be more thankful to each one of you and the strength you gave me, the encouragement received, and by your prayers that I have received over this period of time.

By the grace of God, and through your prayers that I was able to complete this part of my journey. Nothing would be possible if God had not held me up and helping me through so many brothers in Christ that generously gave of their means so that I may have received my support, and without which I could not have passes this period of time comfortably.

Two years have passes and now a new work for me afterwards. I would like to share that fruits that came and were planted within me.

I would like to thank the congregations of Zona Sul, Agronomia, and Lucas de Oliveira in Porto Alegre, and also the congregation of Novo Hamburgo, who have always received my and helped in so many ways, and mainly by much love from all, and I would also like to thank the Daingefield church of Christ in Texas, and congregations that supported Mark and Ju because it was through them that I had the opportunity to study God's Word with Mark, who taught me the first steps in this new life.

May God bless you all very much in all your works, that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always, and that all of us can be together one day as we continue walking to eternity.

With the Love of Christ,

Rafael Rezende "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen!"

Revelation 22:21

Juaneylla had the opportunity to speak at a national women's retreat in May and the Lord blessed her time tremendously in Brazil. She said she was received with so much from the brothers and sisters



in Brazil. She stayed with Didio and Valeria in their house located in Cantao and was very well taken care of in every way and shown hospitality in every way imaginable.

The women from the planning commission were super excited to have Ju with them as they prepared for the retreat that would host women from all over Brazil with an estimated 120 in attendance. Ju spoke on having the mind of Christ and was received with very much joy. In fact, one woman that was facing depression and negative thoughts told Ju that her lesson changed her. Praise God for His Word. Ju is also receiving invitations from sisters all over Brazil to come and speak and Lord willing she will be able to use her gifts and talents in this area to continue to encourage and challenge women through the Word of God. If you would like to help her in this endeavor, please send her an email at markjuwhite@gmail.com.



On a personal note, God has blessed me with an opportunity that I thought I never would have. The opportunity for my feet to be corrected. Some of you have even asked before why I walk a little different in the past. The main reason is because I have walked on the outside of my feet for my entire life and have had high arches on the bottom of my feet. I had gone to five orthopedists and three said it was the most serious case they had seen, and nothing could be done. I have used special shoe inserts and the like over the years, but the pain continued. A sister from the church here concerned about my feet mentioned an orthopedic doctor in Dallas that had corrected her nephews shattered foot after a wreck. It was essentially put back

together. She gave me the number and just said she would pray for me and that the number was available. I thanked her, but it still took a couple of months before I called the doctor. Ju and I went to the doctor and he took the x-rays and looked at my foot and said that it could be corrected. He said that his department of orthopedists likes to take the strange cases and the most challenging cases. In fact, he scheduled mine at the last of the day so that he could take all the time he needed in surgery to correct without other patients having to wait. The surgery took about 3 ½ hours. Essentially what he did was a tendon transfer from one side of my foot to the other through my leg, cut the heel and placed it on the inside, put a screw in for my big toe to be lifted up, and a foot drop for the arch. I had the surgery on my right foot in January of this year and have been doing well in rehab. My walk has already changed looking normal and the pain in my lower back that I always had has gone. I have been able to walk with no pain in that area. **Surgery for my left foot is scheduled for this next month (July 9th) and I ask for your prayers that all goes as well as it has for my right foot.** Praise be to God the doctor said I have been healing at a fast rate, thanks to many prayers. If you would like some other pics of the incisions; I can send separately.



Overall, we can see how the Lord continues to bless the congregations in Brazil that we had the opportunity and privilege to serve by God's grace and mercy. It truly is with great joy we can see the Lord working in His church.



As was said earlier, one of the greatest blessing for a missionary is to see how the church continues to serve Christ when the missionary has moved. We are blessed to be here in Daingerfield and thankful for their hearts for the work in Brazil and thankful for the opportunities we now have to serve the church here in Daingerfield. We are also thankful for modern technology as to continue our relationships with our brothers in Brazil. We are also thankful for the reverse furlough we have to visit the congregations in Brazil and help serve in anyway the Lord sees fit. We are thankful for you because of your prayers, love, and support given through our partnership in the gospel, and we look forward to continuing to let you know what the Lord is doing in Brazil.

Your missionaries,

Mark, Juaneylla

Deborah & Barbara White



Places that the Lord has allowed us to preach and teach in Brazil because of our partnership in the gospel. Such a blessing to see the Lord do more than we can ask or imagine. God be forever praised!!!

