

## *With Grateful Hearts*

I asked Jodi, who went with me to Brazil in November, to write a few words and give you some of her impressions of what is happening in Brazil. Here are her words. What a blessing to once again GO and SEE the things that the Lord is doing in Brazil through this ministry! It had been almost two years since my last visit. My mission field had been here at home tending to Josephine and what a joy that was! It was amazing to encounter the love we were greeted with when Teena and I arrived in Brazil this time. The relationships forged over the 40 years the Harts have been in Brazil are evident today. For those who have depended so heavily on the Harts being in Brazil, it has been a little scary for them knowing that both Billy Joe and Josephine are not there to direct them. These are not just people that have depended on financial support for themselves and their families. I'm talking about those that have become friends also. **(Teena & Eduardo)**



Claudio and Eduardo, who were among the first orphans when Maanaim began, greeted us as family. We were so blessed that Claudio's wife Solange was there daily to make sure we had something delicious from her kitchen. **(Claudio, Solange, and Teena)**



She worked alongside Pastor Ana Paula (Pastor of Heranca Eterna Church) and others making the Saturday **(Evangelism)**



Evangelism a huge success with over a hundred in attendance. We were constantly opening the gate to the 'beep-beep' of a car horn with someone behind the wheel dropping by to welcome us back to Brazil. I woke one morning to a familiar voice outside talking to Teena. Pastor Milton had come by to see his friends. Fernando came to see us; even offering to drive us to those places we shouldn't go alone. Of course we took him up on that. **(Fernando)**



Libby, our friend from Arizona who joined us on this trip calls Fernando our bodyguard. It always feels very safe when he is with us. I guess she doesn't trust Teena's driving.

Cida, our dear friend who retired as the 'cook' from Maanaim sent word that she'd like us to come pray for her. **(Cida (far right) with Family)**



As you may remember, she has had many health issues and recently her feet and legs were keeping her fairly house-bound. When she heard we had arrived, she asked for prayer. Teena and I stopped by to visit and catch-up with her life and had a wonderful time of prayer for her. At the time she showed us her legs and feet all swollen and sore but believed God had touched her. We returned another day and when I asked her how her feet were she began to dance, pulling the leg of her pants high to reveal that the swelling had gone! Now she said, she just needed a touch in her hips that the Lord would take the arthritis from there. We prayed again asking the Lord to just complete the work as His word says. Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

When we went to Novidade de Vida church, the one who runs the feeding program, and were met with such great love and joy; it made my heart fill with happiness. They repeatedly told us how they still cannot believe that God loves them so much, that He sent people from the United States to help them. Some of the mothers even did a special presentation just to show their gratitude.



**(BCO Appreciation Day)**

One mother said that even though they work hard sometimes it is not enough, but they know that we are going to be there to help fill the gap. They still cannot believe that we come back, not just show up 1 time, but that we come back to check on them and continue to believe in them. The women blessed our hearts and souls with their gratitude and love.

I'm so proud that BCO is able to come alongside these local pastors to enrich their already flourishing outreach efforts. The needs are great, but God is able to do more than we can ask or think. (Eph 3:19-21) Let's think BIG!

I wanted to say at this time of the year when we think of our families and how we love them and thank God for them, that there are others who consider you their families. They may not look like you and not even speak the same language, but you are their family. They are truly grateful that God has put you in their lives. You have made a difference; they are getting fed, not only with earthly food, but heavenly provision. They wanted us to tell you how much they love you and appreciate all of you. They wish they could give each one a personal hug, but I hope you can feel their love through these words.

Have a blessed Christmas, we are praying for you. Please continue to pray for us and this ministry. We love you all.

\*\*\*\*\*please note

that our phone number has changed to

**(562) 505-2764**

**Jer. 29:11 (NIV)**

"For I know the plans that I have for you," Declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."