

AUGUST 2017 Newsletter from Paul and Becky Abel

People...Places...Programs...Planning...Purpose

God has a purpose for us that includes planning programs and going places so that we can invest in people. We labor so that people might come to know the love of Jesus and experience His love and learn how to live a life in relationship with Him. Paul's words in I Corinthians 15:58 encourage us - "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Big events in the last months for us included - Free Lutheran Women's Conference at the ARCA, Celebration of 25 years of ministry in Bateias, Pastor's Conference in Campo Mourão, Children's Camp, Youth Camp and weekly Bible Club for children.



Reaching out to Those in Need

People regularly come to us looking for help. Because of gifts from generous supporters we are able to help with much-needed social projects. We have taken in a young couple with two little girls to live in the cabin behind our house. This cabin has been a home to many people through the years. Sixteen years ago a street girl named Rosangela lived there with her sister who was an unwed mother. They eventually ran away. A few months ago Rosangela called us and said she wanted to go to church. Her husband left her with three teenagers and she needed help. Since then we have taken the family to church regularly and to Bible Camp. She is unemployed so we have helped them financially until she can find a job. We have also been giving day work to two men who are recovering alcoholics who need to provide for their families. We recently put in a ceiling in a house to make it more manageable for the winter and have completed a bathroom for a poor family from church whose son Josmar is handicapped. Together we can make a difference one life at a time, one project at a time!



New neighbors Samara and Leandro



Rosangela and her family



Josmar

New roles as President and Secretary of the Brazilian Free Lutheran Church

We have visited eight of our churches in three different states in the past three months. In each place we have met with pastors and church councils and congregations. To help the people visualize and feel a part of what God is doing through our denomination in Brazil and in other parts of the world we have put together a presentation with photos. Paul has used his teaching and preaching time to emphasize our uniqueness as a group of Lutheran pietistic Christians with an emphasis on evangelism and lay leadership. It's important to help people understand how Biblical Lutheran doctrine differs from many other denominations in our world today. We have met monthly with the national governing board of the church and have started a regular newsletter to increase communication.



People Preparing for Service

We are thrilled that our godson Lucas, Pastor Joel and Marilda's son, has joined Igor and Jean at our Bible School in Brazil. Leonardo and Analis are beginning a new adventure at AFLBS this fall. Analis has been a part of our lives since she was 5 years old, and we are thrilled for the opportunity God has given her to study in the U.S. Leonardo was recently baptized and received as a member of our church in Bateias.



Leonardo, Lucas, Analis



Igor and Jean with Bible School ministry team

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our visits to Free Lutheran churches in Brazil.
2. Pray for our regular ministries in the local churches.
3. Pray for plans for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Bible School and Annual Conference.
4. Pray for those who are beginning their walk with the Lord.
5. Pray for the nation of Brazil in the midst of political and economic instability.
6. Pray for financial provision for projects in which we are involved - seminary scholarships, Bible Camp Scholarships, ARCA, ARCA Social Work and specific projects as listed on the Project List -

<https://www.aflcworldmissions.org/resources/approved-special-projects/>

For easy online giving for our support or for special projects go to

<https://www.aflcworldmissions.org/about-us/contributing/online-giving/> or send by mail to the World Missions address below, making sure to designate your gift.

Blessings to each of you as you pray for us and participate financially so that we can continue to make a difference in Brazil! We love you!

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