

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER UPDATE FROM PAUL AND BECKY ABEL

On a mission to make the love of Christ known wherever we go!

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." II Cor. 5:14-15



Furlough Our travels to churches were very nice. We were able to enjoy some of the winter "white stuff" and see some new places we had never visited before. Phone calls to supporters helped us make contacts with those we couldn't visit personally. We took time to make a 7-minute DVD and a 13-minute PowerPoint presentation about our ministry which you can view through a link on our new website – www.paulabelfamily.org. We plan to post current news and prayer requests on our site, so we hope you will take time to take a look. If you or your church would like a DVD copy of the presentations or new prayer cards, you can request them from Wanda at the World Missions office – 763-412-2013. We are hoping to find a few new supporters to replace support from churches and individuals who are no longer sending financial help.

Book in Progress Becky has been working with Loiell Dyrud in helping edit and fact-find for a book that should be published later this year about the history of the AFLC in Brazil. It will be part of the AFLC Ambassador Publication's Heritage Series. We would like to translate some or all of it into Portuguese for our Brazilian church to enjoy as well. This year the AFLC in Brazil is commemorating their 50th anniversary. Anyone interested in joining a **tour group to Brazil in November** to be a part of the celebration can contact Jon Nelson with Journey Missions 763-545-5631.



Ministry in Brazil We are rejoicing that the ministry did not "lose a beat" while we were gone. Matthew and Ednay, along with our great ministry team in Brazil, directed a Christmas program, a week of VBS with 70 children, followed by Children's Camp on the Fruit of the Spirit at the ARCA with 80 people, and the youth camp in the beginning of February with almost 100 people around the theme "The Kingdom of God among us." The banquet was a medieval theme (note the royal costumes at left). They have also maintained our "open home" policy and have had many people around constantly. We are eager to get back to work with them and relieve them of some of the responsibilities.

Switzerland Our 2-week trip to Geneva in January was a great blessing! We were warmly received by the Fiuri family who invited us to stay in their small 2-bedroom apartment with them. Augusto and Deise gave up their bedroom for us to use, and they slept on the floor in the living room for two weeks. That's one example of the way this couple lives out their faith.

We were impressed by the dedication of this family. Both parents get up before dawn each day and work 10-12 hour days. Augusto does his work of preparing sermons and studies and visiting after regular work hours. They also take care of their four children, ranging in ages from 14-20, who all sleep together in the other small room of the apartment. The family works well together, and the children are all involved in the church ministry.



The Brazilian Free Lutheran church was happy to receive us once again (we had been there in May 2015). They have Wednesday night Bible study, Saturday night home studies, and Sunday morning prayer and worship followed by a fellowship brunch each week. Pastor Craig Johnson (with Paul translating) did a good job teaching about the Free Lutheran Church and the pillars of Lutheran doctrine. The next week Paul

preached about what we believe as Free Lutherans and why it is important to know what we believe. His teaching on the Apostle's Creed and baptism went very well also. My role was one of encouragement - singing, helping with the presentations, visiting and praying with people. I did quite a bit of cooking for the family and worked on networking to make some important connections. We are very happy that while we were there we were able to make contacts for them to possibly move to a new meeting place which will be much more affordable. We also started doing research on future mission possibilities in Europe for the AFLC.



Prayer Requests

1. God's provision through His people to provide for our missionary support
2. Augusto's work in Switzerland with the new Free Lutheran congregation
3. Wisdom for the AFLC in regards to future mission work in Europe
4. Good transition and renewed vision for us as we return to Brazil on March 3

We have the **treasure of Jesus** in our hearts! May we make it our responsibility to share Him with others. Time is of the essence! Jesus is returning. *"Only one life 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."* This is a call to lead **meaningful lives**, investing in that which has **eternal value**. May He bless us in that endeavor **that the world may know the Savior!**

Thanks for your gifts and prayers! Let's keep on keeping on by the grace of God!

Paul and Becky's website: www.paulabelfamily.org

Abel's stateside phone in Brazil: 763-390-6825 (you can call for free!)

Tax-deductible donations can be designated for our ministry and sent to:

AFLC World Missions 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55441

Or visit online-giving: www.aflcworldmissions.org/about-us/contributing/online-giving/