



February 2018 Newsletter - Summer News

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." I Cor. 15:57-58

Camp Season in Brazil

As many of you know, January and February are VBS and summer camp months here. This year we have had unusual amounts of torrential rains. Our camp weeks were marked by rain which in no way prevented "showers of blessings" as God ministered in lives. We were happy to have Matthew and Ednay with us to help with the Children's Camp, teaching the 5 Solas of the Reformation. They used the same teaching materials to lead VBS in three churches after camp. The children enthusiastically learned Bible Verses and the true meaning of salvation by faith in Christ's grace as revealed in Scriptures. In February 210 people participated in the Youth Camp which focused on our identity in Christ and the authority of Scriptures. Ministry concerning sexual identity and the outright attacks on traditional family values opened up opportunities for healing in this important area.



Youth Camp in Campo Mourão



Road to camp



Children's Camp at the ARCA

Projects at the ARCA

We are rejoicing in the "facelift" that happened at the ARCA in January. Thanks to a special gift we were able to put new flooring in the chapel and dining hall. A new coat of paint really helped make the place look great! We also started working on the new maintenance space for the ARCA by making a concrete ramp. The next step includes bricking in the walls and covering the space.



Social Work Outreach

For the last couple of months Paul has been helping a man he has known for years - José, the Birdcage man. He lives alone (kind of like a hermit) and eeks out a living making bird cages. When he broke his arm a couple of months ago Paul started bringing him to the ARCA to give him a bath and get his clothes washed before taking him to church. One night during a heavy rain storm a tree fell right on top of his "house" (a one-room hovel), destroying everything. Since then José has been living with us while Paul is coordinating people to clean up the debris and build a better shelter for him. Pray for José as he learns about trusting in God for physical, spiritual, and emotional healing.



Family News

Matthew and Ednay started off on an adventure yesterday, driving from Brazil to Ecuador in their faithful little car. They will travel through Argentina, Chile, and Peru on their 15 -day trip, camping and making memories. They will visit AFLC missionaries in Cuenca before flying to the U.S. for furlough. Pray for them as they raise support to return to South America in June and define a field of missionary service. Ednay is 4 months pregnant - a little girl is on the way!





We praise God for the birth of Judah Luis Abel, son of Andrew and Alexi, on January 25, 2018, in Minneapolis, MN. He is a precious little boy and we hope to meet him personally before too long. Skype and photos bring us close even though they are so far away.

Challenges for 2018

Since our last letter Paul accepted a call to serve the Mighty Fortress Lutheran church in Curitiba during 2018. We both continue to be on the national church board as President and Secretary. In that capacity we are traveling to one of our churches in another state to do a Couple's Retreat and the installation of a new pastor this weekend. Our young neighbors, Leandro and Samara, are expecting their third child this year. God has been working in their lives and they sense a call to prepare for ministry in the future.



Samara and Leandro

Prayer Requests

Wisdom for leading the Mighty Fortress church during this year.

Safety for Matthew and Ednay on their trip and discernment concerning their future field of service.

God's continued work in the lives of campers.

Direction for Leandro and Samara and others who are considering going to Bible School or seminary.

Provision for the projects and people with which we are involved.

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