

FTC BRAZIL

FOR THE CHILDREN BRAZIL IN FORTALEZA, CEARA

THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY

THE LIFE OF A MISSIONARY INCLUDES ALL OF THE ABOVE.

The worst of the attacks on our health seems to be behind us! Hallelujah! We are starting to settle into family life and out of family survival. But as one starts to be victorious in Christ in one area, satan likes to attack in another.

Wagner and Gerlane, the couple in the slum who were overseeing the children, have walked away from the Lord. In many ways, they have let money, ungodly counsel and a dependance on man lead them into unrepentant sinful behavior. They have misled us in many ways even locking the door to the community center on Sunday where we held service and limited our outreach to the children to only include those that are attending "their school". Even accusing us of using pictures for our own financial gain. It has been a hard blow on us for their sake, our friendship and the spiritual growth of the children who are the ones that are really suffering. But all is not lost! God only prunes the dying unhealthy branches so that His tree can bear bigger and better fruit. New and unobstructed life is already stemming from this.

continued on page 2



Home Bible Study In Icarai

During our stay in Cumbuco, our third residence when we first arrived, Alex met Alex! Alexander was the night receptionist and was struggling with the thought that God can love him. With a history of drug abuse, he could not understand the extent of God's grace. We talked for hours and he wanted to know more about Jesus and all that is written of Him in His Word. After all the illnesses and

settling into the apartment, it was more than a month since we left Cumbuco when I got to speak to Alexander again. He still expressed an interest in learning so we began meeting, him and his family, every Friday. Please pray that God continues to bless Alex, Lydia and their young son Nathan with a passion for Him. God willing with more help, FTC can start an outreach to the kids in this surf community as well.



ALEX DISCIPLING This small group of young men along with Rogerio the local supermarket proprietor have been gathering every Tues and Thurs for an in depth study at the community center in Moura Brasil.



A BLESSED VISIT Both our mom, from CC Miami Beach, and Joe LoGrippe, from CC in the City, ministered to us and to the kids during the Tues. Bible Study. Thank you !



OUR NEW HOME The dining room, kitchen, living room and the guest room all ready for our family and friends. We are so grateful how God has provided. Praise the Lord!

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continued from page 1

We have started to look for a new place to hold church services on Sunday. We noticed that many people who we spoke to outside of the slum, wanted to attend church but were reluctant to go into the slum. This was but one limitation we encountered by ministering out of the slum's community center. Although we have access to the neediest of people, most adults are very hardened there and the children we could reach was limited to only those attending the school. So I believe that God is closing one door to open an even wider one elsewhere. We have been encouraged to look for a hotel conference room on the main avenue which is accessible to all and can be rented hourly on Sundays.

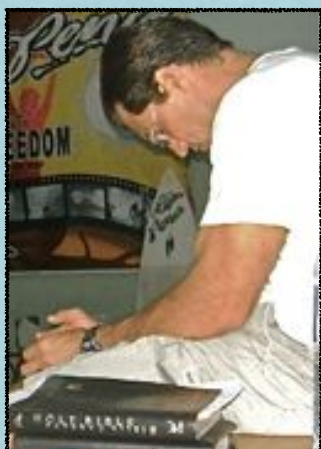
We have widened our scope and made time for people like Alexander and his family who are genuinely hungry for more of God without any financial benefits.

Alex continues his Tuesday and Thursday young men's Bible Study. Pablo 11, Gabriel 11, Nathanael 11, Felipe 17, Antonio Carlos 13, Gustavo 10, and Rafael 12, have been nicknamed "The Serious Seven". Along with Rogerio and the 3-4 other boys who attend less consistently have been showing real growth in the Lord.

Another valuable lesson that has blossomed from all this conflict is that ministering based on need is not always ministering based on God's will. Jesus saw much need but healed a few. Jesus spoke to all but had 12 close disciples and only 3 even closer friends. The need here is so great and the desire to produce fruit here is so important to us, that we assumed that all was God's will. Thanks to some Godly counsel from some beloved pastors, we learned that praying and seeking God's direction even when it requires to stop or slow down, is what God wants. That sometimes includes bypassing needs for a more Spirit directed and effective ministry. Hard but necessary if we are to run this race until the finish line. God is so good and merciful to us in teaching us these lessons so early in His work in Fortaleza.

SOME AWESOME TESTIMONIES:

1. Last Tues.- Gustavo pulled me aside after the study to ask me how to stop listening to worldly music. So I told him to pray and ask Jesus for strength and to renew his mind daily with the Word of God. Gustavo is 10.
2. Last Thur.- Pablo 11, shared in the study that on his way home from the Tuesday Bible study he saw a girl in the slum dancing a very provocative almost pornographic dance. He quickly remembered what he learned that day and looked away without turning back.
3. Rogerio asked me to report to you all that since the Bible study started he is closer to the Lord than he has been for the last 5 years. He has repented from marital sin which has affected his son's health. But in all this he praises God and is thankful for the Bible Study.
4. Alexander has fully accepted the Lord as his Savior and looks forward to the Friday afternoon home group even when exhausted from working the whole night before.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. For Wagner and His wife Gerlane to repent.
2. For the children in their care to be protected from a misrepresentation of Christ.
3. For a new place to start the church on Sundays.
4. For Rogerio's son to stop having epileptic seizures.
5. For the young men in the Bible Study.
6. For me to be guided by the Holy Spirit on any and all decisions.