

Fall 2012 Newsletter

We serve and Awesome and Alive God! To Him belongs all the glory!
Here are the following updates on what's been happening in Fortaleza.

Sunday services on Aterro De Iracema: Like a South Beach type of city.

What a Mighty God we serve! Our Sunday services have been well attended. People are being saved through the preaching of God's Word as well as through the Bible studies taking place throughout the week.

One particular Sunday, Jesus convicted a passerby who claimed he was a Christian but was about to cheat on his wife. As he was walking by, I asked "how can Christians go around greeting—na paz do Senhor(In the Peace of God)—and be living in sin?" Three weeks later, I was told that that same man was so convicted by the Word of God he proceeded to go home and not cheat on his wife.

On a different Sunday, a young man who was depressed because his girlfriend broke up their relationship after she was saved, stopped by the service and stayed till the end. He accepted The Lord and is now married to her. Praise the Lord!

We are starting to have a group of regulars every Sunday:

--From Pirambu we have Nonato and Mikaela, Tony and his daughter, Dilene, Graca, Penguin and Angela. Others come once in a while.

--From Oitao Preto we have Thiago and his wife Mayara, Alaham and his son. Others come once in a while as well.

Another couple from yet another favela Castelo Encantado (Enchanted Castle) - Evanesio and Cristina- have been coming faithfully and also attend the Oitao Preto study on Fridays. They usually work on Sundays but always stop by before work. In all ,we have approximately 12 faithful attendees and another 10 that attend once in a while. This couple were walking the bridge as well and ended up staying for service. He came back to the Lord and she got saved a month ago.

As for the Bible studies:

Pirambu: I just finished the Book Of John. I am praying for directions and what new book to begin as well as possibly changing the meeting time. God has done so much there at that study. Examples: Charlie was a drug dealer that got saved and convicted and now helps his wife with her home business. They make belts, necklaces and bracelets and then sell them on the local mart. Jailton was a drug and gang member that also accepted The Lord and gave up his life of drug dealing and gang banging and now works as a construction laborer. He wasn't really sure if God would forgive him for all the murders he committed and really needed someone to confess his sins to. He spent 45 minutes telling me all the evil things he had done and then was like hoping I'd tell him what he wanted to hear. I told him that yes,

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Jesus would forgive him and that He had done it already on The Cross. He has moved from the neighborhood and now attends services every Sunday. Another 5 kids accepted The Lord and one is in prison and the other 4 are trying to get their act together. The English classes are going well with 7-9 kids. I use CC kids curriculum as well as teach them practical everyday English. Kids are learning English and The Bible, awesome! We have kids day coming up Oct. 12 and it's a big thing here so we are setting up to do something special for the kids.

Oitao Preto: What we thought as to be over, The Lord has restored in such a blessed way. We started having our Bible studies at a lot next to Rogerios store which he opened up to us. There we started with 4 guys and the Lord has brought men women and children as well. That study has grown both in numbers as well as spiritual growth. There are 2 gang members from one of the drug gangs that have received the Lord and now attends every week and always asks for another day of studies during the week. There are another 3 gang members that attend but are just fishing. The study is going very well and CC in the city got to minister to them when they were here. They did a skit that really moved everyone and since then more people have come to the study. People are hungry for The Word and I just pray for more laborers. The harvest is plentiful!

Icarai: Alex has been growing in The Lord and at the same time the enemy is trying to bring him down. He has been asking for prayers and really wants to let certain things out of his life but is struggling. His wife still has a Catholic strong hold, and wants to marry at a Catholic church.

Men's' Discipleship: I started a men's discipleship Bible study with Nonato, Penguin and Itim on Wednesday mornings and that has been a blessing already. Another guy started attending and even mentioned that he had never heard anyone teach the Bible like that. He's in his 30's but doesn't know how to read but has been coming the last 2 Wednesdays. Two guys from the opposing gang that I minister too showed up last Wednesday and ended up staying for most of the study. That could be the door opening for us to minister to them as well and make peace with the other gang.

Today 10/5/12 was one of those CRAZY days in the slums. I went by to speak to Nonato about the Clean teeth clinic we are going to hold tomorrow for the kids and saw the remaining kids from the gang that I minister too. I'm greeting them as they passed by to go play beach soccer and five minutes later I hear gun shots so I run out to the beach and see them battling it out with the apposing gang. They are trying to stop the madness but the other gang took the opportunity to catch them off guard and get revenge. It was great because I got to be right there and call all of them out and minister to them right after the battle. They claim they have stopped trying to get at the other guys but they can't just lay down when these guys come at them. I

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truly understand them and am trying to connect with other gang to try to make peace. Please pray for them as well as other gang, these are still kids 18 and under.

Today 10/6/2012 we were able to hold the Clean teeth clinic with the help of my local dentist and Erika's aunt that brought a bunch of kits from her job. We had toothbrushes, toothpaste, stickers and kids Bible stories coloring books as well as other little gifts that we were able to provide with your help. We bought some little toys and snacks and celebrated kids day as well which will be next Friday.

Zepahny: We are still waiting for all the results from the multiple exams she went through. We have noticed that she has been gaining weight and believe Jesus has healed her because of all the prayers.

Car Situation: My kombi has been in the mechanic since the Boston team left. I finally picked it up today and have to take it back because it still is not driving well. It died on me six times today and now it's smoking a lot. I'm reaping what I have sown; I bought that car because I got desperate. I thought I was doing the right thing and being a good steward with the money I had because when we got here we were spending so much money with rental cars. After repeated warnings from God, I still went along with my decision. Disobedience is costly!

I'm truly blessed and thankful to you all that help and make it possible for us to be here. It's very humbling to me. I encourage you all to come down on a missions trip to experience it all first hand, there is no better way to understand what God is doing than to see it yourself. Speak to your Pastors or connect with CC Miami Beach, CC In The City or CC Sahuarita for information on their plans for a missions trip down here. There is so much more that I could share but it will turn out to be a book if I continue. I'm sorry for the newsletter which is a little different because I don't have the skills that my wife has in the computer.

Prayer requests:

1. Pray for spiritual growth for all the people that I mentioned in the above updates and for all the kids we minister too.
2. Pray for God to raise up laborers to help us serve the people.
3. Pray for a building that we could start moving into.
4. Pray for our Sunday services, Wednesday and Friday Bible studies, English classes and now the men's discipleship.
5. Pray for me, my wife and my kids and me to work as a team and for protection against sickness and other schemes from the enemy.
6. Pray for me to be less ADD, I drive myself crazy sometimes because of lack of focus. I need to be better with time managing.
7. Pray for Erika to have fellowship with someone that could relate to her as a missionary homeschooling mom. It's not common to have a lot of kids here and much less to Biblically dedicate your life to them.

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8. Pray for me to have more wisdom, understanding and discernment.
9. Pray for a car for us. We are now left with only two choices, a used land rover that seats 9-11 people and costs around \$ 30,000.00 USD or a new van that costs around \$40,000.00 USD. I spoke to different mechanics and they all say go with the new van because the used land rovers and vans are used for transport and will be a money pit like the kombi.
10. Pray for me to be better husband and father.

Please send us your prayer requests as well. We just got regular internet, wohooooo!

We will be posting pictures on Facebook: FTC: For The Children Brazil
Please check it out and friend us there.

For support, go to www.ftcbrazil.org or email us for details.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list just email us with remove.

God Bless, Alex and family!