

The HUGGINS FAMILY

Missionaries to BRAZIL



I Corinthians 3:7

So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.



Greetings to all in this new year of 2024!

January - February 2024

In January we celebrated 4 years in Brazil! First, we would like to praise the Lord for sustaining us and leading us through some challenging times but we are thankful to look back on these years with joy knowing we have done what we could and the Lord has blessed our time here in Brazil. It is a privilege and honor to serve in this way. We know it is only by God's grace and your faithful prayers and support that has kept us here as your missionaries in Brazil. To God be the glory and may He reward you all greatly in heaven.

Last letter we mentioned we started meetings in a nearby town called Braços (pronounced "Brasos"). Many there have been interested in attending these meetings but we have found the 2 biggest obstacles are the majority of people there are from many generations of Catholics and then there is a lot of conflict amongst the neighbors that reminds me of the family feuds in the Carolinas. Regardless of these challenges several different families have attended and we have been blessed to have these events in dinner halls, homes and open air meetings on the hillside. Praise the Lord we have seen souls saved and believers rededicating their lives to Christ.

The evangelism days in Braços have gone well and we have been able to encourage the few saved there and give a gospel witness to the lost. The people in the rural area are very kind and are not as occupied as those in the city. On one of these days I was out with Bro. Beto and Sis Mirian from our church and we met a Catholic lady named **Angela**. Her husband, **Dario** is fighting cancer but still is very closed to anything other than Catholicism. He has not allowed her go to any church for years but she had a sincere desire to know God. After explaining the scriptures to her that salvation is only by faith in Jesus she prayed with us and received the Lord as her personal Savior!! She was very joyful and she had a look of complete relief afterwards. She then told us about her cousin that lived next door so we went to witness to her.

We arrived at the house of her cousin, **Bela** and her brother **João** (John) who were also Catholics and both unable to read or write. After witnessing to them we understood that João was actually saved but Bela was not. Her life story was tragic as she lost 6 children all before 10 years old due to a blood disorder. Her husband of whom she explained was a very difficult person, also died a year ago. She held much bitterness towards him but thankfully, we had liberty to direct her attention to her need for salvation. By God's grace after a good witness and reading her several scriptures she bowed her head, as a broken soul asking Jesus to save her and she lifted her eyes with the joy of her salvation and forgiveness in her heart to her late husband!!

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Evangelism in Braços



Angela



Bela

João

~ THANKSGIVINGS ~

- Health & blessing of Lydia's pregnancy
- Salvation of Angela, Bela & Anderson
- 4 years being missionaries in Brazil

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

- A healthy baby, pregnancy & delivery in April
- Spiritual growth of our new converts & in Braços
- Stability & growth in our church in Camboriú

We were also able to help João with his battle to quit smoking. We left him with our prayers and took with us a bag of his cigarettes that sister Mirian asked him to give us so we could trash them as a sincere repentant step for him to follow Christ. Another blessing was, later that day Bro. Beto was also able to lead another Catholic man to the Lord named **Anderson**. We ask prayers for the growth of these new converts.



Meetings in Braços



Another man in the neighborhood named **Valdecir** who has been regularly going to our meetings who was already saved but really backslidden. Like Bela and João, he is unable to read or write and are all over 60 years old. This makes me grateful for the blessing I often take for granted of not just having a Bible but being able to read it. We gave him a audio Bible on CD and he has started school for learning reading and writing. For them it is extremely difficult to stay faithful without the blessing of meeting weekly in church with brethren to be encouraged and to hear preaching and teaching but even more so without the ability to read the Bible to feed and strengthen the spirit. Currently we have three more invitations to hold services in houses in Braços and another invite to have a meeting in a house in our city in Camboriú. Hopefully we can have these meetings before our baby is due to arrive at the end of April.

In our Camboriu church in addition to our weekly church services and Bible studies we had some additional events in January and February like a prayer week, evangelism events and membership studies. We have had a lot of adjustments in the church especially since we started a membership study. Two main false doctrines we have faced constantly in our church are pentecostalism and Calvinism. Several people have left who strongly believed in these doctrines but others have stayed and have remained open to study what the Bible teaches on these subjects. One man in particular who was helping lead music tried to secretly gain followers to his beliefs causing discord in the church. It has not been an easy time for our church and we have lost some good brothers and friends due to our doctrinal stance. By God's grace, even with these troubles where several have left and others lost fervor there has been a tempering of the faithful in our church and a unity of those sincere in serving God. I have learned these troubles are common when the Lord is working, there is always opposition from the enemy (1 Cor. 16:9).

Everything is going well with Lydia's pregnancy and our baby, thank the Lord! We are excited to have her with us by next letter and appreciate all the prayers for her and the delivery through this time. Meanwhile, we have realized that our other daughter, Elaina, has become a "true" missionary child when she told us about her day at school. Her best friend got in trouble and Elaina began to tell her how that when she chooses to do wrong that is sin. This to me was far better than her getting an "A" on her report card. As a minister and missionary, my first flock and mission field is my family and we ask our brothers to pray for these especially as Elaina begins to understand more about sin and what Jesus did for her.

As always our family and the brethren here in Camboriú are very grateful for your support and prayers for our ministry in Brazil!

— Sincerely in Christ, the Huggins Family - Michael, Lydia, Elaina & baby girl on the way!