

APRIL 2025 Newsletter Paul and Becky Abel

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of faith”



Communion Celebration

As we focus our attention and affections on Jesus, He turns our hearts toward people. Whether it be one-on-one, in small groups or sharing in large events we recognize the **goal of communicating the Gospel in meaningful ways**. PRAYER, CARE and SHARE is the method Jesus taught by His example. We need to be praying for the lost, caring for them in practical ways and sharing the Gospel message in words. **The need is desperate** - without Jesus there is no salvation. **The message is simple** - Jesus came to forgive, save, and transform. And **the mission is clear** - Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

Since we last wrote our life has focused on **facilitating four short-term American missionary groups** (45 people in all) in their outreach to Brazilians. This was no small task – coordinating meals and lodging, tours and travel, schedules and special events, translating and clothes-washing. We survived!

The first group was a **Journey Missions team** led by **Jon Nelson and his family**. They helped with Bible Club at the ARCA and youth camp in Campo Mourão. Besides making friends with Brazilians, this group was especially helpful in **leading VBS** for the children who came to youth Camp in Campo Mourão. With excitement and creativity, they blessed the lives of the missionary kids as well as the Brazilian children. Another **group from Onalaska, WI**, led by Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt, also participated in this youth camp. We had about 350 people this year, including, youth, adults and children.

We arrived home from Campo Mourão for a couple of days to wash bedding and get things ready to receive **Paul and Bonnie Handsaker and Cal and Terry Knapp**. Bonnie and Paul had visited 14 years ago when Paul was a member of the World Mission Board. Although Cal had grown up in Brazil he hadn't been back since 1984 (imagine all the changes in 40 years!) He received word while here of the passing of his Mom, Helen Knapp, a former missionary to Brazil who has always been a great encourager and prayer warrior. We enjoyed spending a few special days with these “retiree” friends before a **14-member group from Arlington, WA**, led by Luke and Summer Long, joined us for two weeks of action-packed evangelism training events.



Handsakers, Van Drivers, Abels, Knapps



This group came prepared with materials translated into Portuguese to offer something very valuable to our congregations. They promoted an event called **Youth Impact**, using material from Dare2Share, an international program geared to **equip youth to share their faith**. The first training was at the ARCA Bible Camp, the second in Campo Mourão and the final training was in Iguaçu Falls. In each place the team interacted with local youth as they shared

testimonies and skits, motivating us to **share the love of Jesus** with those in our lives who need to know Jesus. It was exciting to see the people in each place embrace the method, learn the simple presentation of the Gospel, and go out and share the love of Jesus with people. **Our Brazilian churches were so blessed**, and we look forward to how they will continue to influence others with their newly acquired tools.



After everyone left on March 31, we headed to **Paraguay for a quick visit** with son Mafu and Ednay and their 4 little ones. What a joy to see them pour their lives into ministry in this country!



Sunday after worshipping with the Paraguayan Free Lutheran church we headed back to Iguaçu Falls to participate in the evening worship service. Paul preached and I sang.

Now we are back home involved in ministry in Bateias where people are eager to receive a visit, a study, a prayer, a hug. One of our neighbors passed away while we were gone. Paul had the opportunity to visit and share the way of salvation with him (again) before we left. We know **many people going through difficult times** - sickness, grief, family difficulties, other challenges. Pray that we might be a **spiritual encouragement** in each opportunity.

I may have mentioned in an earlier newsletter that we are working toward including Brazilian leaders in the overseeing of the work in Brazil. **A new Constitution** was registered in March. In April **Paul was elected President**, and **I was re-elected Treasurer** of the Mission. We will soon open a bank account to manage funds for the different ministries. Eventually, someone else will take over these roles.

The pastors and wives from our area had supper and a great night of fellowship together at our home on Saturday. The Sunday services were a blessing, and we led a successful **Bible Club** at the ARCA based on Holy Week. We are gearing up for the citywide **Passion Play** this Friday where a group from our church will be available to pray with people at the end of the event. We look forward to an **Easter breakfast at church and a family Easter dinner**. April 27 the ARCA will host a big **church Family Day celebration**. Never a dull moment around here!



At the end of May, Pastor Earl Korhonen will take a **missionary trip with Mafu and Ednay to Chile** to check out possibilities of establishing a Free Lutheran work in that country. We will travel to Paraguay to take care of our grandkids during that time. Then we will return to Brazil to pack our bags, say good-byes, and fly to the U.S. for the second half of our furlough. We hope to see many friends at the **Annual Conference at the ARC** in Osceola, WI, June 11-14. Both of us will have opportunities to speak during the Conference. Please pray for us as we prepare and plan for our time in the U.S.

We **thank YOU for praying and sharing** financially so that we can continue the ministry of sharing the Good News of Jesus in Brazil. We want to encourage you to **pray** for someone who needs to know Jesus, **care** for them in some special way and look for opportunities to **share** the message of the Gospel with them. Jesus came to earth to restore our relationship with God and give us an abundant life now and forever. We are ever grateful for the **CROSS and for the victory Jesus won** over sin, death, and the power of the devil! **Happy Easter!**

Because of Jesus, Paul and Becky

To reach us, send an e-mail to paulabelfamily@gmail.com or communicate by WhatsApp - +1 763-620-4133. That is also our phone number stateside.

Gifts for our ministry may be sent to:

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

Online gifts: www.aflcworldmissions/online-giving/missionaries-donate/

****We are also promoting a very special project this year – the building of a church** for a needy community in Campo Mourão. Their present church is in great disrepair and is not large enough for the group meeting there. We are looking for willing donors to fund this project – a modest request for US\$50,000. A group of interested people and churches could easily bless the **Cohapar church** with donations for this special need.