

## Paul and Becky February 2025 Newsletter



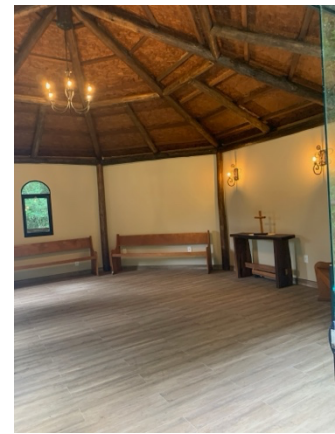
### Hearts full... Home full....and Hopeful!

Our hearts are full of rejoicing as we are back in Brazil to begin our **41<sup>st</sup> year of ministry** in this country. After spending a week of celebrating Christmas in Osceola, WI, with stateside family (Joanna's and Andrew's families and extended families – photo below top left)), we arrived home to a houseful of people in Brazil. Christina and Daniel prepared a welcome home meal for us (photo below top right). Mafu and Ednay and their 4 children plus Missionaries John and Hannah Lee and their 6 children were already at our home to greet us (bottom photos). We had many visitors to welcome us on our first days home.





The ARCA board members were waiting at the entrance of the ARCA to blindfold us and lead us to **the surprises they had prepared** for our welcome. We were thrilled with the new look at **the entrance** and thankful for their loving provision of a **dedication plaque and garden** to honor and remember the faith of our parents – John and Ruby Abel and Dick and Jo Dahlin. The prayer chapel was constructed with memorial gifts, and we will seek to honor their desire to point people to Jesus. The following day was New Year's Eve which we spent with our Bateias church family celebrating 2024 and looking forward to 2025 with a lovely dinner and an outdoor time of praise and testimony.



We are pleased to report that the ministry continued without “missing a beat” while we were home on furlough. The ARCA board did a great job of managing the rentals and working on **the remodeling of the bathrooms**. They also **painted the main ARCA building** (photo above). Everything is ready for a new year of camps. Praise the Lord!!

There is never a lack of excitement here with people coming and going and many activities and many parties. We “mounted the saddle” and joined the race right away. There was much planning and preparation for our **Children's Camp** which is now just a special memory in the minds and hearts of the 70+ children and 25 staffers. We had a fantastic week teaching the **Ten Commandments** by entering the “Time Machine” and visiting Moses back in Bible days. Since Matthew and Ednay had **car trouble** (pray for them), Ednay and the kids stayed at the ARCA while Matthew returned to Paraguay for Bible Camp there. Ednay helped us by telling 2 missionary stories in the evenings. It was fun to have 3 of our grandchildren camping with us. It's precious to see how much the children learn in 4 short days! The final program for the parents amazes me as the kids are so enthusiastic to share their memory verses and songs and give the crowd a little taste of camp. **Praise the Lord** for this wonderful place and important ministry!





We squeezed in some fun family time in between lots of company and special programs and parties. The house emptied out on Jan. 23, but a week later Shelby and Kelly Greven (pictured left) arrived as **short term helpers**.



The rest of the **Journey Missions** team will arrive in two weeks to participate in our churches here and then on to Iguaçu Falls and the **youth camp** in Campo Mourão the first week in March. You can follow their adventures on Instagram – [aflcjourneymissions](https://www.instagram.com/aflcjourneymissions). Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt and a group from his church in Onalaska will also join us for camp. Then a couple of weeks later we are planning to host another **stateside team from Arlington, WA**. They will lead two seminars while here to encourage our youth in personal evangelism. Pray for us as we work out the details for this special opportunity.

I managed to hurt my back while cleaning and preparing our cabin for a newly married couple from church to live in for a few months. I have had much pain and would appreciate your prayers for pain-free living in the future. Also pray for our upcoming camp and mission trip events.

We are thankful that the **women's ministry** in Bateias is flourishing as different ladies take responsibility for leading the Bible studies and planning the meetings. At the end of January, 45 ladies gathered for a time of fellowship and rejoicing. The **worship teams** do a wonderful job, and attendance has grown while we were away. We so enjoy being a part of this vibrant community of believers! We sense that we still have a mission to fulfill in this place and that people are appreciative of our investment in their lives. Our hearts are full, our home is full, and **we are HOPEFUL** because of God's promises to us and His presence with us. *"And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."* Romans 5:5

We want to wish you a blessed 2025, hoping that each of you are fulfilling God's purposes for your lives. **There's nothing better than living for Jesus.** We invite you to continue praying for us that we would be strengthened day by day to make a difference as we minister in this place for God's glory and the salvation of souls. The second half of our furlough will begin in June of this year when we hope to see many of you personally.



Thank you for your contributions to our ministry. Gifts can be sent online or by mail to: AFLC World Missions 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55441, designated to the Paul Abel ministry. Prayers may be sent heavenward.

The best way to communicate with us is via e-mail: [paulabelfamily@gmail.com](mailto:paulabelfamily@gmail.com)

With love and thanks for our great team of "cheer leaders," Paul and Becky