



# FRUITS FOR ETERNITY

BY BECKY ABEL

**A**ugusto and Deise Fiuri and their four children, Brazilians from the Free Lutheran work in Curitiba, are presently sharing the gospel in Switzerland. This work is the fruit of an evangelistic campaign nearly 50 years ago in the interior of Paraná, when Augusto's parents came to Christ.

In 1965 John Abel moved to Campo Mourão to begin the Free Lutheran work in Brazil. He began a radio program in order to reach beyond the bounds of the city. One of the listeners extended an invitation to Pastor Abel to do an evangelism outreach in a small interior town. Augusto's mother, Lourdes, was in charge of opening the local school for the meetings. Being a typical Brazilian Catholic, she had no interest or intention of getting involved with "believers." However, the preaching of the Word that first night led her and her husband, Evaldo, to the Savior, who has changed their lives and the lives of so many through them in these past five decades.

Ridiculed and criticized for her decision to become a Christian, Lourdes remained strong

in the Lord and eventually many other family members were converted. Lourdes and Evaldo raised three children and with much sacrifice sent them to Bible camp in the summers and eventually to Bible school in Campo Mourão.

After Augusto finished Bible school he moved to Curitiba, where Paul and I had started a Free Lutheran church. Through the years Augusto was a faithful member and used his gifts in teaching and preaching in the local church. For a period of time he served as a lay pastor in the Campo Largo church while we were in the U.S. on furlough. Five years ago he sensed God leading him to Switzerland, where he now lives with his family. Through a series of events he is now pastoring a Brazilian congregation in Geneva and seeking to instruct them in the Word using Free Lutheran catechism materials from Brazil.

In May Paul and I, accompanied by AFLC World Missions Director Pastor Del and Karen Palmer, had the privilege of visiting this family and encouraging their small congregation. It is a blessing to see how God's plan unfolds. Pray for vision and direction in reaching out with the gospel to European nations, which are in great

need of hearing the Word of God and coming to know Jesus.

Evaldo and Lourdes eventually moved to Curitiba and have been a part of the Bateias congregation for years. Their testimony and prayers have influenced many lives. Each morning they wake in the early hours to intercede for their family and make their requests known to God. Although they miss having their family close to them, they rejoice in the fact that their son's family is taking the message of salvation to people in Switzerland. They could have never imagined that their relationship with the Lord would one day lead to the beginning of a mission field in another country. One by one the seeds are planted, and God continues to grow His church around the world until Jesus returns.

*Abel serves as an AFLC missionary in Brazil, along with her husband, Pastor Paul Abel.*