

(News from the Todds - Formerly The Todd Times)



on a work team to Guyana (special article about this is included in this newsletter).

We have also had the awesome opportunity to learn more about the culture of Brazil, and even about some of the religious practices of the Catholics here. It has been interesting to be able to ask questions and learn during this time.

So, even though we aren't doing a "specific ministry" right now, we are sure of one thing, God is still working in us and through us here in Brazil.

We will leave on July 7 and return on July 13. Keep us in your prayers. Pray that God will use the team and us in a mighty way.

What's Your Ministry?

Since August of 2002, Jim and I have been involved in our language-learning program. We will continue to be in full-time language learning until October.

Language learning is a full-time job and requires ten hours of class time per week, a lot of time practicing and a lot of homework.

Now that we are able to communicate, we get asked this same question quite a bit, "So, what is your ministry here?" We then go into an explanation that our primary job right now is to learn language, and that we have no other specific ministries at this point and time.

Sometimes it feels like we are here doing nothing for the Lord. However, in these times of waiting on the Lord,

we are learning how to communicate to the people of Brazil. He is teaching us to be able to communicate effectively so that we will be able to share the gospel message.

During this time of waiting on the Lord, He has both blessed us and used us in spite of ourselves. He has given us great Christian friends that have helped us speak the language better. He has introduced us to people who don't know the Lord. We are building relationships with them, sharing with them in the best ways that we know how, through our daily life, in hopes that someday soon, we will be able to communicate with them about our faith in Jesus Christ. He even gave Jim the opportunity to lead a group of 5 Brazilian pastors

on the children of the community. We will be spending time with the kids, making crafts, playing games and all sorts of other stuff. This will be the first extended river trip any of us have taken.

This trip promises to challenge my ability to speak Portuguese, as I will be helping to translate for other Americans that will be working on the team.

Boat Trip

The boat trip that we mentioned in our last newsletter is fast approaching. Sandi, Stephanie, Chelsea and Elie will be going on this ministry trip. We will be going to the community of Canumá on the Rio Madeira (Wood River), a tributary of the Amazon River.

We will be joining a work team from the U.S. This ministry trip will be focusing

BRAZIL



Did You Know...

...Brazil is the world's largest producer and exporter of coffee?

... Brazil also exports citrus fruit (especially juice oranges), soybeans, sugarcane, rice, corn, cocoa, cotton, tobacco, and bananas?



Contents:

What's Your Ministry?	1
Boat Trip	1
Words of the Quarter	2
Missions on the Mission Field	2
Being Part of the Team	3
It's Time to Renew	3
Finances	4
Prayer Requests	4
What's Cooking in Brazil	5



Missions on the Mission Field



The U.S., Guyana and Brazil Work Team

nothing. One night they did get a ‘not yet’, which was even more baffling to them. I discussed with the pastors the importance of cross-cultural ministering and how sometimes we need to learn new ways of reaching people that do fit with what we might call our ‘cultural norms’.

We worked everyday at the Bible College- Brazilians, Americans, and Guyanese. Everyone had an opportunity to share with Joe on a personal level. Joe was working hard and on more than one occasion made mention how he thought helping would be pleasing to God. I was present when the Guyanese confronted the faulty theology with the Truth. But Joe again stated, “yeah, I know, but I am just not ready”. No matter what was said, he just was not willing to trust in Jesus.

The Brazilian team went to the airport on Saturday for our return to Brazil, but to our surprise, the airline changed its entire schedule and we weren’t going to be able to leave until Monday morning. The Brazilian team was really disappointed that we could not return as planned. I reassured them that God was in control and that He needed us in Guyana for a couple of extra days.

Sunday we attended an ordination service in which the Pastor from the American team preached. We were unexpected guests as we were supposed to have left the day before. God was present in every aspect of the service and the Brazilians were able to experience one more cross-cultural worship service.

On the night the American team was to leave, everyone went to bed except Jeff, Jessica (Hubbard), Joe and I. We sat up and talked with Joe until nearly midnight. We were probing some of the statements he was making that evening. The statements he was making differed from those of the previous nights. I had to ask, “Joe, have you made a decision to accept Jesus as your Savior?” The three of us livened up when he responded “yes”. I asked him when this came about. He told us that it was the sermon Pastor David preached that morning from 2 Timothy that help to open his heart. Joe shared about his decision with the entire group of Americans as we gathered minutes before they left for the airport. I shared with the Brazilian pastors about the decision Joe made the next morning as we prepared to leave for home. They were excited.

This is what missions is all about. Going and doing what the Lord wants when He wants it. Sometimes it does not make a lot of sense to us. Sometimes it seems more than obvious. It really does not matter. I went to Guyana to work on the Bible School and teach some Brazilian pastors about ministering in another culture. Usually, ministry teams go out and serve to win others of that country to Christ; this time, not only the people of the country were ministered to, but the team ministered to one of it’s own and he came to know the Lord.

It was a different work team, comprised of Brazilians, Americans and Guyanese. It was a first for the Brazilians. Another difference about this team was that one of the American team members, Joe*, was not a Christian.

The Brazilian pastors are evangelists and, each night, one gave a powerful testimony and Gospel message during devotional time. They did this five nights in a row, and Joe’s response was not what any of them had anticipated;

Words of the Quarter

Months of the Year (*Meses do Ano*)

Janeiro - January

Fevereiro - February

Março - March

Abril - April

Maio - May

Junho - June

Julho - July

Agosto - August

Setembro - September

Outubro - October

Novembro – November

Dezembro – December

When writing, months of the year are not capitalized in the Portuguese language.



*Name has been changed



School's Out!

School is out for the summer and the kids are enjoying their summer break.

Stephanie has completed 11th grade and is now a senior. Chelsea has completed 7th grade and Elie the 1st.

They are excited about having the free time to spend with friends.

School's not been out long, but Stephanie has already found a temporary job doing translation types of work.

Chelsea and Elie have made lots of friends these last few weeks and are learning how to speak the language better.

Sam tags along with the girls while they are playing and is learning the language too.

Being Part of the Team

The week of June 22 brought a group of youth and their sponsors from North Carolina to Manaus. When they arrived, Stephanie and Chelsea met them and became part of the team too. The North Carolina team took them in and allowed them to stay with them and work with them.

During the 7 days they were here the group did a lot of work. They worked at the Seminary painting, digging a ditch and repairing chairs. At the district campground they mixed and poured concrete for the women's dorm floor.

They ministered at one of our churches here, Grande Vitória. While there, the band sang songs, some did dramatic skits, and some of the youth shared their testimonies. They went back on a Saturday and did back yard clubs with the kids.

One evening they showed the Jesus film at a city park. There were over 100 people at the small park. One person was saved, several

people contacted the pastor for more information about the church and there were even some people that attended the district married couples retreat that they heard about during the film.

Another night, the team joined Brazilians in music ministry, putting on a district youth service. The finale of the trip was a huge concert that the American team and Brazilians put on at a local beach, Ponta Negra, which is a very popular night spot. The American band played with the Brazilian band, members of the youth group performed dramas and one shared her testimony. There was a message preached by a Brazilian pastor and then more music. There were lots of people that attended this event.

Stephanie and Chelsea were so blessed to be included in this group. They made new friends and helped them do the work of the Lord.

It's Time to Renew!

On August 4, we will celebrate the anniversary of our arriving to Brazil. Do you know what that means? It means that we have to renew our visas! We are so excited about this milestone of our ministry here in Brazil, but we are not excited about going through the process of renewal.

Renewing our visas will be a

time consuming task for us. We have papers to gather and authenticate, lines to wait in, fees to pay and deadlines to meet. All of these things are done at different locations, so there is a lot of traveling back and forth across town, too.

Our visas expire on August 4 and we must have all of our paperwork in to the Federal

Police and the money paid for the renewal before this date.

We would like for you to pray for a smooth renewal process. Pray that all of the information that we need comes quickly and that we meet our deadline.

Newsletter By E-mail

Did you know that you could receive this newsletter by e-mail? If you would like to receive our newsletter in this way, send an e-mail to: subscribe@todd-brazil.org. The newsletter is sent in PDF format, which is easy to receive and view.

Our newsletters are also posted on our website, www.todd-brazil.org. All of our previous newsletters are also archived and available to view.



Finances

As you may be aware, Wednesday June 18, 2003 was a day of prayer and fasting for Global Partners/Wesleyan World Missions. The focus of this day of Prayer was for the ministries and finances of all Wesleyan Missionaries.

Currently the Brazilian Wesleyan Church has a need for 51 shares to help subsidize the ministries of the church. The Brazilian church has not received funding for many months now. Please continue to pray about the financial support of The Wesleyan Church in Brazil and where you might fit in by supporting Brazil. If you would like more information concerning the ministries in Brazil, feel free to contact Jim.

You want the good news or the bad news first? The good news is that all salaries have been paid by GP/WWM for all missionaries. The bad news is that a lot of missionaries are behind in the support they are receiving. And, unfortunately, that includes us. Is anyone tired of hearing this story? Well, rest assured, there is no pleasure in writing it either. Currently our support is down nearly \$4500 year to date (Sept to May). So we need to have nearly \$21,000 come in towards our support before the end of August. The total is comprised of our normal \$5417 monthly support plus the year to date shortfall. So we need almost \$7000 a month to meet our support for the year. If you would like to send in a special gift over and above your normal monthly support to help offset the shortfall, please send monies to:

Global Partners
6060 Castleway West Drive
PO Box 50434
Indianapolis, IN 46250

And make sure you mark all correspondence with Todd Family and account number WM04-0262. For more information on how to support the Todd family contact Jim.

Prayer Requests

- Continue to pray for our language learning. This is a vital part of our ministry.
- Pray for the river ministry that Sandi, Stephanie, Chelsea and Elie will be a part of. Pray for God's will to be revealed to us for future ministry opportunities for the Brazilian Wesleyan Church to get involved in.
- Pray for our visa renewal process.
- Pray for the funds that are needed for our Faith Promise.
- Pray for the funds needed for the National Church.
- While Jim was in Guyana, he injured his knee. He tore a ligament and will need surgery. He is in the process of consulting with a surgeon in the U.S. and will be traveling back to have the surgery. He will need six weeks of physical therapy after the surgery and we are not sure at this point if he will be able to do that here or not. Pray for his knee and for all of the details of travel, scheduling and physical therapy that still need to be worked out.
- Continue to pray for our spiritual, emotional and physical health.
- Future work/ministry teams.

Upcoming Calendar Events

July:

5 – Stephanie's 18th B-day
7-13 – Boat Mission Trip
Throughout entire month
– Renewal of our Brazilian identifications

August:

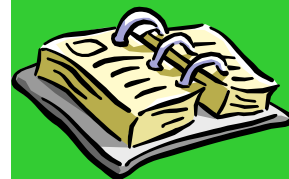
2 – Elie's 8th Birthday
4 – One year Anniversary of our arrival to Brazil
4 – Second semester of seminary classes begins
10 – Father's Day in Brazil

September:

7 – Brazil's Independence Day
29-Oct/3 – 6th Latin American Missions Conference in Chile

October:

12 – Children's Day (like that of Mother's and Father's Day, but for kids)



How to Contact Us:

Home:
Rua Berna, C-09, Q-43
Manaus, AM
69045-640
Brasil

Post Office Box:
C.P. 444
Manaus, AM
69011-970
Brasil

Phone:
011-55-92-238-6780

E-Mails:
jim@todd-brazil.org
sandi@todd-brazil.org
stephanie@todd-brazil.org
chelsea@todd-brazil.org
elie@todd-brazil.org
sam@todd-brazil.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.todd-brazil.org

Did this newsletter show
up at the wrong address?

Send Address Changes to:
Cicero Wesleyan Church
P. O. Box 225
Cicero, IN 46034-0225

Or send an email to:

cicrowesleyan@worldnet.att.net

What's Cooking in Brazil



From the Kitchen of: Sandi Todd

Brigadeiros – Served at every Brazilian Birthday Party
This is a form of chocolate fudge candy, simple to make

**Ingredients: 1 can sweetened condensed milk; 1T. margarine;
3 T. cocoa powder; chocolate candy sprinkles; paper candy cups**

Directions:

Over medium-low heat, stir vigorously the condensed milk, margarine
And cocoa. Cook the mixture until it thickens enough to show the pan
bottom during stirring (soft ball stage). Pour the mixture in a
greased dish and let it cool to room temperature. Take small
amounts of the mixture with a teaspoon and make 1 inch
balls. Roll the balls over chocolate sprinkles to decorate.
Place in paper cups to serve. Makes about 40 candies.



Ministry Opportunities

We are scheduling teams to come to Brazil for the remainder of 2003
and for 2004. If you'd like to find out more about sending a team to
Brazil, contact Jim by e-mail: jim@todd-brazil.org

As Noticias dos Todds
c/o Cicero Wesleyan Church
P. O. Box 225
Cicero, IN 46034-0225