

Mirassol Messenger

No. 2

12 November 2010
Peter and Nice Armati

Prayer points

- Praise God that He keeps us safe and healthy here in Mirassol
- Thanks be to God that He is bringing us numerous people to talk to about Jesus
- That when we talk to people, we should only do so in God's strength, not our own; being continually prayerful
- That people will keep their commitment to come to study the Bible each week
- For wisdom and patience as we deal with people's difficult but crucial questions
- The safe arrival of our goods from Australia and fair treatment by Brazil customs
- Good health as we work hard to re-establish our old home

We have now been in Brazil for two and a half months.

We have been very active on a number of fronts:

- Spreading the good news about Jesus
- Re-establishing old relationships
- Re-establishing our old home in Brazil
- Getting ready to receive our container from Australia (which should arrive next week)

I don't think I can remember a time in my life that I have washed my hands more often (from touching our five dogs and working with dirty things), or carried more keys. We must regularly use on a daily basis at least 50 keys.

Praise God that we have now 12 or so people studying the Bible on a semi-weekly basis. Semi-weekly because people here seem to be genetically incapable of doing anything consistently. The people age from 9 to 80, and come from a mainly roman catholic background. Several have some spiritist experience. Almost all seem to be genuinely seeking the truth, 'though they don't always receive it happily when it does not accord with their own thoughts.

We have to be very careful not to judge people here with the same measure we use to measure people in Australia. They are completely different. This is hard for me to remember all the time and I find myself slipping into old ways of assessing people and events. Even Nice has a challenge from time to time.

We are both well and healthy, thanks be to God! The weather has been very hot often and there has not yet been much rain. However there has been enough rain for the countryside to have recovered to a lush emerald green after the 6 months of annual drought broke in October. Our mango trees are heavy laden with thousands of mangos, the first of which we are starting to eat. We had help with the house paddock from the tractor equivalent of a Victa Lawnmower a few weeks ago, which conquered the worst of the 1-2 metre high weeds. We have now purchased a 4 stroke petrol lawnmower to try to keep the house paddock in check in the future.

We are waiting for our container to arrive from Australia (via Shanghai). It should arrive next week, and shortly after that we will hear what the customs duty is to be on it. This is a source of some anxiety. After the appropriate payments have been made, the container will make its way to us by truck some 500+ Kms from the port of Santos to us here in Mirassol. Then will commence the unpacking of all that into our place here. So, still a lot of work lies ahead of us on that front.

We have been using Nice's deceased mother's house in Mirassol for our Bible study meetings. This is a very hot house even with the windows open and all the fans going. But we hope in due time to hold monthly lunch gatherings on a Sunday afternoon here at "Wahroonga" with all the members of the groups invited.

The old established group of four people here in Mirassol are working through a translation Nice made of Stephen Calder's BHAC growth group studies of James. This is proving very challenging for the group members, because it is doing what we hoped it would do—stimulate them to consider what changes in their lives studying the Bible every week for five years has brought about.

The new group (of 6-8 people) is finishing a four unit Introduction to Christianity and will soon start "Just for Starters" - a seven unit course.

Thanks be to God that Peter's dear friend and Bible study leader Ken Tulloch has reached 90. Peter's own walk with God has been significantly influenced by Ken, and we thank God for him in Peter's life.

Don't let anyone tell you that retirement is a break from hard work!

Your brother and sister in Christ Jesus
Peter and Nice

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