

Mirassol Messenger

No. 4
12 May 2011
Peter and Nice Armati

Prayer points

- Praise God for Marcia – who has become a Christian.
- Praise God for Hugo – who has become a Christian.
- Praise God for our prayer and financial supporters
- Praise God for our safety and good health
- Praise God for the beautiful cool weather and no more rain!
- Praise God that we have finished unpacking our container and putting our home in order
- Praise God for new Bible study members
- Praise God that He empowers us to speak and witness to Him
- Please pray that other home group members will repent and accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour
- Please pray that we will remain safe and healthy
- Please pray that God will raise up new people to hear and receive the gospel
- Please pray for God's leading as we prepare to reach out to University students in the coming months
- Please pray for Peter's Portuguese skills to be greatly improved (by study!)
- Please pray that we will live Christ-like lives; displaying God's love to all people.
- For patience and forgiveness (how many times shall we forgive our brother).
- Please pray for God's leading as we consider a close relationship with the Reformed Anglican Church here in Brazil.

We are sorry for the long time since our last newsletter three months ago. A lot has been happening which is why there has been a delay.

The weather is cooler now and the rains have stopped. So now leaves are falling off the trees, and the weeds and grass is beginning to turn brown. It will only reach 27 degrees today they forecast. We don't expect any more rain now until November.

First the wonderful news is that we have two new Christians here now; Marcia and Hugo. As you will remember, the early days of one's conversion can be especially challenging, as the evil one attempts to pull the new Christian back into darkness. In Marcia's case this has been very apparent. However, with God's help and strength, and a lot of counseling, she is certainly winning the battle. Hugo is not apparently being challenged. He reads his bible every day and is eager for more than one day a week of home group meetings!

Please pray for both of these new Christian brothers and sisters. That they will resist the evil one's challenges and grow daily in Christ likeness. That they will bear much good fruit in the years ahead.

We are about to commence reaching out to the students of Mirassol University—in June or July after Nice comes back from visiting her son in Canada for three weeks in May.

We have consolidated our two home groups into one, led by Teresa. This will free us up to focus on the University outreach. Nice will also work with Marcia and her sister one-on-one in the next months. Marcia, a new Christian, needs a lot of TLC and guidance as she moves from her old self to Christ. Her family and a lifetime of their interference in her life are hard habits to break. Her sister is a very confused person spiritually and she also is in need of special attention. A mixture of Catholicism, Buddhism, Spiritism, science and philosophy all confuse her. And so far she will not let go of praying to Mary and the Catholic saints.

We visited São Paulo (455 Kms from here) at Easter time and found a wonderful place to worship our awesome God. A Presbyterian church called Christian Fellowship Community Church.

There we met a young man Nathan who has put us in touch with a Bishop of the Reformed Anglican Church in Brazil—Bp Josep Rossello. Bp Josep is keen to develop a closer relationship with us and to help us and support us in our mission. We have discovered that there is a branch of this church near us—only three hours drive away. So we are planning to visit this church in Ribeirão Preto once a month, to celebrate Communion there and fellowship with the people worshipping there. Let's see what develops from there.

As you may know, the North American Episcopal Church has become very liberal. Many people are leaving that church union and forming Reformed Anglican Churches. This has also happened in Brazil. To learn more, visit <http://anglicansinbrazil.co.cc/> or attend special lecture at School of Christian Studies with Rev David Sandifer 31 May at SOCS North Ryde: <http://socs.org.au/looking-for-a-theological-course/calendar-and-lecture-timetable/upcoming-events/>

We especially ask for your prayers now, at this time, asking for God's leading on whether to or how much to relate to the Reformed Anglican Church. Nice and I have considerable concerns about the effect that having a close relationship with a 'formal' church might have on the kind of ministry we had planned... but we need to be open to the possibility that God may be opening the door to different forms of ministry to those we had in mind... We know that God often does this!!!

Your brother and sister in Christ Jesus

Peter and Nice
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