

September 4, 2006

Our youth-rally was totally Brazilian run. Our goal as missionaries is to see the nationals take over the work and reproduce what we've done in the past. It was such a blessing for us to be a "small" part of the rally on Saturday. There were 50 teens from four different churches that participated. The games were simple but fun; the winning team won some candybars and "The Golden Pineapple" (the theme was tropical). I preached on the fruit of the Spirit and the teens responded with decisions to allow the Spirit to cultivate His fruit in their lives.

We need your **urgent prayers** for the salvation of a woman named **Elza**. She is a very troubled individual and had been used to destroy many lives. Pray for God's direct intervention in her life. This woman is related to several of our members and we want to see God do His special work.

During the week, in a conversation with a man who will be doing work on the facade of the church, I came in contact with a former pastoral acquaintance. I came to know pastor Ernesto and his wife Luzia while in my first year in Brazil back in 1997. Sunday night Ernesto preached a powerful message at Hope. He spoke on the need for discipleship in our churches. His message (and the work of the Holy Spirit) really touched our people. We're excited to see what the fallout will be with regards to our growth as a church body.

Pray for with regard to our house search. We're still looking and have found a couple near the church.

September 6, 2006

Sowing and waiting... is the hard part of missions work, however necessary it may be. Davi and I went out again yesterday and sowed for a few hours. We met several people who expressed interest in spiritual things. Now comes the waiting part. We know that as we sow on a regular basis God will bring the increase. That is the encouraging part. We know the creator of the fruit!

Speaking of fruit. There is a man who comes by the house (in a 60s VW van no less) selling fruit. I began to talk with him the other day about spiritual things. He is very open (as most Brazilians seem to be). Pray for Alex's salvation as I give him his weekly doses of the Gospel.

We may have found a house. It is very near several of the families of our church and near the church too. **Pray** that we will have God's direction. Don't forget to pray for Elza, she is still unsaved.

Mike