

FAITH & FAITHFULNESS

The Wacasers share an example of faith they recently witnessed.

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WAYS TO PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES

Joining us in interceding for our missionaries this year.

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A TRIBUTE TO LOUIE CARVER

Veteran Missionary Louie Carver is with the Lord.

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THANKSGIVING OFFERING UPDATE

We praise God for blessing our Thanksgiving Offering and thank you for your generosity!

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BFMNOW.ORG

BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

bfm NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries to fulfill church-planting missions in the nations of the world

RECOVERING FROM COVID-19



Mike & Beverly Creiglow
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December 14, 2020

Dear Brethren,

Greetings from “I don’t even know how to describe this place anymore.” Cruzeiro is well in to its second wave of Covid-19, yet there is all kinds of construction going on, schools are closed (all year), restaurants are open and business seems to be booming. As many of you already know, the Creiglow family is going through the virus phase. We are not sure how many of us have had it, but it seems to be somewhere between 8 and 10 of the 14 family members. It looks now like Bev may have been the first. Her test was the first to show antibodies. Now Andrew’s 2 oldest have it. I was the only one hospitalized. As it turns out I had the coronavirus and dengue fever at the same time. Recovery has been slow, but steady.

First Baptist was forced to halt services back on March 18th. We started back in September with one service and at only 50% of our normal attendance. It grew gradually in size and number of services per week. Then the second wave hit. We dropped 20%. Now we are back up to where we were before the second wave. The

drop, by the way, coincided with our election frenzy here. Lots of big rallies every day for 2 months. This down period was also when I was out of commission.

Bev and I got to go back to church yesterday, December 13th. We had good crowds morning and evening, 624 for the day. I was surprised to see so many visitors. There was a young mom who came back into fellowship after being away for 6 years. There were also 2 professions of faith. Although Dauro and I are not preaching just yet, we were at the doors to dismiss the crowd in the evening service. It is so strange to just have to stand there smiling and speaking to folks, but not knowing if a person wants to shake your hand or get a hug. Many do, but some just walk by with a sheepish smile. Awkward!

Lucas and Diana are in from the field at Santa Rosa do Purús for a short rest. They are holding services already. Two of my builders have gone to Jordão to start the construction of the building. Unfortunately, I couldn’t go along. Neither of these towns had a Baptist church. Both towns had a Catholic presence and a ton of neo-pentecostal congregations. Jordão has a population of 8000 and 13 of these “churches”, while Santa Rosa do Purús is 12 thousand people and 14 “churches”.

All of the Creiglows here were under strict quarantine on Thanks-

giving Day. It was very strange. Bev and I were not hungry and didn’t cook at all. Our Thanksgiving “dinner” was crackers, cheese and a glass of juice. We postponed our family dinner. Last Friday night we finally got together and, boy was it great. There were several things that made me laugh so hard. For those of you who may not know it, many people who have Covid lose their senses of smell and taste. When Andrew’s family arrived we were all around the island in the kitchen looking at the different dishes. His oldest daughter Heloisa (who is now 20) grabbed the bowl of broccoli casserole, pulled it up close and exclaimed, “I can smell the cheese!” She came away with a dot of cheese on her nose. Our devotion that night was all 14 of us sharing things we are grateful for. What a night!

Continue to pray for us and for Cruzeiro do Sul. Many friends have left this earth during this year.

Thanks for all of your prayers and



Celebrating Thanksgiving with family on December 11th



Construction at Jordão

support. God bless you as much as He has us.

In Christ,
Mike Creiglow



“And...they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.” -Acts 14:27

www.bfmnow.org

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*May God give them wisdom and discernment
as they prayerfully make decisions.*

GOD HAS PROVIDED FURLOUGH HOUSING



Nathan &
Carrie Radford

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December 5, 2020

Dear praying friends,

We are now at the end of 2020, and just one month away from a new year. What a challenging and chaotic year this past year has been, with the coronavirus. Since our arrival back into America, we still see the effects of the coronavirus with the mask wearing, sanitizing, social distancing, and staying away from large groups of people. Our prayer is that a treatment will become readily available soon and things will return to some sense of normalcy. God is in control of it all, and we are doing our best to stay healthy at this challenging time.

Please be in prayer for Kenya at this time with the coronavirus. Our understanding from what we are reading and hearing is that the cases have increased recently, and the government is doing measures that were previously taken, such as an early curfew and banning large gatherings, in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. Please be in prayer for those in

Kenya at this time, for their safety and health as they work with the people there.

We are in the process of adjustments to America. We did a three-year term this past term, and our adjustments have taken longer. Please be in prayer for all of us, that we would be well adjusted and rested. We have been going through something known as "reverse culture shock," where you are in the process of adjusting to another culture. We are pretty much adjusted to this point and we thank the Lord for His help with this.

I (Nathan) will soon be working on my missions dvd, and we need to get our prayer cards done, and the other normal activities of furlough. My wife is staying busy homeschooling our daughters and she has done a great job at it. Our daughters enjoy homeschooling very much, and our daughter McKenna has done very well in her science studies. Please pray for my wife, for wisdom and understanding for how to guide them with their educations. Also, for daily strength as many challenges come through the school year.

The Lord has provided housing for us in Milton, WV. We are so

thankful and we also thank each of you who wrote to help us in any way with this. Housing is always one of the big stresses of furlough, and we are so thankful for this provision.

We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. 2021 may have some of the same challenges as 2020, but God will be faithful, as He always has been. How we can trust Him with our lives and futures. Proverbs 16:3 says "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."

Also, Proverbs 3:5-6, which says "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

May we commit our works to the Lord, in anticipation of the new year, and may we not lean on our own understanding, but trust Him to direct our paths. Have a great upcoming Christmas holiday. I will close with Matthew 1:21, which says "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save his people from their sins."

We will be sure to keep you updated.

Blessings,
Nathan and Carrie Radford

NEW MONTHLY SUPPORTER



We are thankful to announce that Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Barry Delaney, of Danville, KY, has begun monthly support of Baptist Faith Missions.

Thank you,
Giving Friends!

AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH & GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN TRYING TIMES



Bobby & Charlene Wacaser

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December 2, 2020

Dear Friends,

You may be experiencing similar circumstances in your area, but I did want to inform you of what is happening here in southern Brazil. A new wave of COVID cases has arrived and several of our members have been infected. Thanks to the Lord, no one has died because of it and most have recovered quite rapidly. Charlene and I have been blessed by not getting it, so far, and we pray that it will stay that way.

Our youth minister went through some tough experiences recently that helped us see that we are truly in a spiritual battle in this world as we seek to serve the Lord in a fallen society. Cledson and his wife, Fabiane, are very dedicated to teaching the youth God's word and demonstrating its principles in their daily lives. They go the extra mile in showing love and faithfulness to Lord and to the youth under their leadership. There is a young man who had struggles in his home life and they

took him into their own home to mentor him, even though he often pushes the limits of their patience. In one three-week time frame, he caused several accidental damages, though his carelessness was the main factor. They already live on a very tight budget and these damages were sorely stretching them. Last week, Cledson and Fabiane were pushed near to the end of their faith. Cledson makes his living as an Uber driver and this young man, without Cledson's permission, took his car keys, started the engine and accidentally popped the transmission into reverse while the car was parked next to the church's brick wall. The car rammed backward, crushing the rear of the car and crashing through the wall. All together, the cost was more than 3 months of Cledson's earnings, plus he would have to put his car in the shop for 3 weeks without further income from Uber services. He and his wife broke down crying. They know that "all things work together for the good of them who love the Lord...", but on the emotional level they were nearly spent. They dried their tears and went before the youth to teach them that God is still in control and that they are

trusting in Him.

They had no idea how they were going to pay for their daily needs, much less the repairs to the car and the church property. But the Lord amazingly showed His gracious mercy and love. The church members, though none are wealthy, pitched in together to cover their expenses for the month and the Lord answered a several months' old prayer request of Cledson and his wife by having a company call him to work where he won't even need his car. In the midst of their trial, the Lord showed Himself strong and attentive to their needs. They were super encouraged by the apparent turn in events and were strengthened in their faith. Also, the youth under their leadership learned a tremendous lesson on how to live out their faith in a very real and practical way through the example of their leaders. I am very grateful to God for the strong leaders that He has placed over our youth and I trust that we will have a new generation of faithful servants as a result of their teaching and example.

Another couple of amazing volunteers are Emmanuel and Maria. They are both retired from their secular jobs. As they contemplated

retirement and what they believed the Lord wanted them to do with their lives, they felt led to be a part of our gospel outreach team. Emmanuel and Maria are just the kind of people that I want to always be and hope to teach and inspire the people under my leadership to be – selfless! As I write, they are together with our outreach team on a trip to a town in the interior of our state where they will share the love of Christ in public squares and parks. They'll be sleeping on very thin pads and traveling in a crowded van, but they do this joyfully because of their love for the Lord. I am so thankful for them!

I mentioned in my last correspondence that I got an invitation to preach the gospel in English in a neighboring state. Well, that opportunity led to a re-invitation. Charlene and I will be returning there in a couple of weeks and we pray that the Lord will use us to get the gospel out to the listeners present and online and that we will be an encouragement to the team who invited us.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support so that we may continue to be useful in the Lord's service.

Bobby and Charlene Wacaser

DESIRING TO BE BACK IN BRAZIL



Aj & Barbara Hensley

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Friends and family,

Well, things are still on hold. We have been trying to keep our students excited about the Seminary and learning about God's Word. So, we have tried the virtual learning and the first one was a make-up class for a couple that missed the first class that we taught in São Paulo.

Our desire is to be back in Brazil teaching those who want to

be studying to teach their church members. But it seems that every time we think we are about to go we have another roadblock put in our way. Our plans seem to change daily. We are thinking that if we can get the vaccine, we could possibly be there around the first of the year. With our inability to be in Brazil, we are setting our tentative schedules for 2021 and putting it in the Lord's hands because He is in control. So, our new schedule is for 4 classes in April which will be in Manaus and Porto Velho (jungle region). Then 4 classes in June conducted in São Paulo and Campinas. Then an undetermined

number of virtual classes after the on-site classes. Then we are planning approximately 8 classes for September, October, and November and will be in 5 different cities. These are our schedules with the availability of our professors.

Please pray for our travel plans and for our professors and our protection from this virus. Thanks to each of our prayer warriors for your continued prayers for these classes.

I am going very slow with the healing of my ankle. Each day is a victory and I am still guarding the injury as I try to get back to normal.

We want to wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In His service,
Aj and Barbara

**Read more on
our FaithWorks
Blog at
blog.bfmnow.
org!**

PRAYING IN THE WILDERNESS



Roger & Julie
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Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

What should you do when things are not going right? When you are struggling over a great many things? When you have a ministry in Kenya, but the ministry is not going where you want it to? When you are striving to make the gospel relevant in people's lives, but no change is taking place? When you don't know what to do next? Well, I don't have the answers to these questions. But I do know one thing you can do - head out into the wilderness and pray. So, that's exactly what a number of my missionary buddies and I did this past month.

Our closest wilderness is Mt. Elgon, so 6 of us piled into a couple of Land Rover's and headed to the top. We were all needing time to reflect, to get out of civilization, to seek God, to find guidance and direction for our respective ministries, and to contemplate on where God is right now. A number of men in the Bible did this (to a much greater extent than we did), and I found it to be helpful. And so while I can't speak of all the great things that are happening in Kenya, or the great progress that is being made in the ministry, or the great growth of the Chapel (things I wish I could write about), I can at least write that God is making progress in my own heart.

About a three-hour drive from Kitale, the peak of Mt. Elgon sits at approximately 14,000 feet. To get there you have to drive on roads and paths that don't look much like roads and paths. It is adventurous, and I am not the most adventurous person in the world.



The path to the top

We had to dig, push, pull, chop through fallen trees, work together, think, strategize, and trust. But in the end, we got there even though we had to drive through the forest at night to get back to our cabin. In the morning, before heading back to civilization, I got up before the sunrise and took my coffee out into a small field near where we had slept. I spent time with God and prayed - mostly by watching the sunrise, listening to the birds sing, and watching the zebras, water bucks, and impalas graze (my life is rarely this adventurous or exciting, really). I returned with renewed strength and determination to seek and serve God, and to love and serve His people.

Things I am learning that God kind of

reiterated to me while I was on the mountain and that I can try and help the people that are around me learn too:

- Let God be God - Roger, don't place your own expectations of what YOU THINK God should or shouldn't do upon God. Don't force God into your own image and get disappointed when He doesn't do what you thought He should have.

- Trust God, and when you don't know how or when you don't understand God, trust Him anyway - Roger, it is very presumptuous of you to think that you can understand God or to figure out all His ways. And when He doesn't seem to make sense, trust Him anyway.

- In quietness and rest shall be your strength (See Isaiah 30:15) - Roger, don't always question, question, question but instead sometimes just be quiet. Don't always run, run, run but sometimes just rest. Learn how to trust and rest in God in quietness and peace and joy.

- When God feels distant in your heart and when the love of God feels cold in your soul, God will oftentimes shower you in His love through the love of other people - Roger, remember those many people in Kenya and in the United States that stand with you, pray for you, challenge you, support you, cry with you, encourage you, lift you up, teach you, and carry you to Jesus when you can't walk (See Luke 5:17-20). Remember, that this is God loving you.

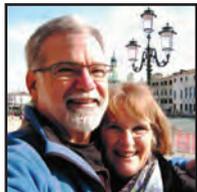
Is God doing nothing? It sometimes seems like it. But, really, He is just doing HIS thing in HIS own time. Roger, can you rest in that?

Blessings to you all,
Roger, Julie & Chloe

“Is God doing nothing? It sometimes seems like it. But, really, He is just doing HIS thing in HIS own time.”

- Roger Tate -

AN INFLUENTIAL SHEPHERD: REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JIM EVANS



John Mark & Judy Hatcher

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December 8, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May this find you enjoying the Lord's blessings despite the painful, difficult and restrictive times in which we find ourselves. A couple of weeks ago a brother in Christ who was a great friend passed from this world where death reigns to the presence of our Savior. I had the privilege of speaking to his immediate family at the service. But, I just reverberated the glorious message of Jim Evans' life.

Jim Evans is in the very top portion of the people God used to enable me to understand better how to follow Christ. He was a great friend for 49 yrs. I had the privilege of being his pastor for 25 years. Yet, by example, he was a wonderful shepherd to me and our family and many others. Like "Barnabas", the Son of encouragement, Jim "was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith."

Jim came from a dysfunctional family, but you never would have known it. While still a teenager, he trusted Jesus, and found a new family. He became an exemplary father and husband. What a team he and Carolyn made, a match made in heaven. His life touched many, especially kids. There was a big treasure of compassion in Jim's heart for those who were needy as he had been. He loved to "bus them in" or go to steer them toward the Lord when they got in troubled. Over a period of twenty years, Carolyn and Jim invested thousands of hours reaching and teaching children about the Savior. Later, working with kids who were legally in trouble to bring them to Christ became his passion. God used Jim to teach

all of us!

About three years before I met them, Jim and Carolyn lost their oldest child, a boy in fourth grade, in a car accident on an icy road. However, I have never known anyone who was more filled with the joy of the Lord and faith than Jim. Carolyn, and Jim have a big place in Judy's heart and my heart. While extremely respectful to us as their leaders, they loved us like their own kids and were the on-site grandparents for our children.

The great reunion in the presence of our Heavenly Father has already started for Jim... Jesus, David, Gayle (daughter who died 4 years ago), and all the ones his life touched. They will keep on arriving. I can see him bouncing forward on his feet smiling from ear to ear as he greets them...and one day us!

Jim's life was "faith expressing itself in love". He loved to serve. He loved the needy. He loved projects... especially when they could be used by God to touch the needy. The reality, "We live by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7), was so evident in Jim's life. "Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.'" (Rev. 14:13)

Jim often started a conversation with a great biblical passage which was on his mind. Today I think he would say,

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about any-



Jim Evans

thing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:4-7)

Thank you, dear Heavenly Father, for giving us Jim.

And, speaking of giving. Jim and Carolyn were ardent supporters of missionaries for over 60 years, especially through Baptist Faith Missions. They requested that people honor Jim by sending offerings in his memory to Baptist Faith Missions. Some of you knew Jim. For all, if my narrative of Jim's life touched you, maybe you would like to give a gift in his memory or in memory of someone God used to shepherd you!

God is at work in France and through the lives of folks from our church. I will save that for another letter.

Thankful for people God has used to shepherd us,
John and Judy

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"86% of Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists do not know a Christian. Make a friend. Re-order your church budget. Send. Go. Pray."

-K. DeYoung

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WAYS TO PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES IN 2021

adapted from SEND International

"Brethren, PRAY FOR US!" 1 Thessalonians 5:25

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Sunday

Consistent times of prayer and learning from Scripture
Meaningful worship and fellowship times
Growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ
Commitment to the purpose of their ministry

MINISTRY

Monday

A work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of unbelievers
Boldness to share Jesus
Evangelistic contacts & ministry opportunities
Multiplication and health of the churches
Wisdom in the use of time, resources, & energy

FAMILY

Tuesday

Strong marriage
Needs of children
Support from family at home
An example for believers and unbelievers

RELATIONSHIPS

Wednesday

Genuine interpersonal relationships
Willingness to listen
Wisdom to confront in a loving way
Accountability

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Thursday

Political and economic situation
Growth of God's Kingdom
Visas and continued residency
Safety

ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE

Friday

Diligence in life-long language study
Friends to help with language and culture
Willingness to engage with people
even when language is weak
Cultural sensitivity

PHYSICAL NEEDS

Saturday

Health, safety, medical care
Emotional stability
Housing, schooling, transportation
Contentment in all things

LOUIE CARVER IS WITH OUR LORD [12/30/2020]

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."

Louie served Jesus Christ during his lifetime as Pastor, Missionary in partnership with BFM, former Field Representative for BFM, and a Veteran Missionary Pensioner. We bless God and honor Louie for all his service for our Lord and for the decades of friendship, fellowship, and partnership in missions ministry we shared together.

Here is a brief bio that we have posted in recognition of their being among our Veteran Missionary Pensioners:

Louie and Mary served in partnership with BFM from 1971-1987. They served as missionaries to Korea and the Philippines from 1971-81. Then, from 1981-1987, Louie served as Field Representative for BFM.

Here are just a few of the numerous churches they either established or nurtured during their tenure of missionary service:

- ▶ Shin Nae Baptist Church – Seoul, S. Korea
- ▶ Faith Baptist Church – Seoul, S. Korea
- ▶ Doo Mill Baptist Church – Doo Mill Dong, S. Korea
- ▶ Kai Pyoung Baptist Church – Kai Pyoung Dong, S. Korea
- ▶ First Baptist Church – Kai Pyoung Dong, S. Korea
- ▶ Open Bible Baptist Church – Saint Maria, Philippine Islands
- ▶ BFM Stateside Field Representative: 1981-1987

The family has requested donations in memory of Bro. Carver to be made to Baptist Faith Missions in lieu of flowers. You can give online at www.bfmnow.org or by sending a paper check to BFM, c/o George Sledd; P.O. Box 471280; Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1280.



Pastor William Louie Carver, 81, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

THANKS- GIVING OFFERING UPDATE \$67,035.00



Thanks to the gracious generosity of our Giving Friends, our updated 2020-2021 THANKSGIVING OFFERING total is \$67,035.00! This includes \$24,035.00 that was contributed during the months of September-November ... plus \$43,700.00 that has been given here during the month of December.

We have to go back 10 years to match this Thanksgiving Offering!

As we keep promising you – and in fulfillment of 2 Corinthians 9.10-15 – your gracious and cheerful giving will supply the needs of our missionaries throughout the coming year as they continue to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it will also exponentially multiply and increase our mutual thanksgivings to God.

We recognize that all of our giving is only the fruit of the grace that God Himself gives to us [2 Corinthians 8.1], and also is our expression of thanksgiving back to God for the Supreme and Indescribable Gift of His Son, our Savior [2 Corinthians 9.15]!

So, again – “Thank You, Thank You, Giving Friends!”

“...that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality...”
[2 Corinthians 8:2]

2021 WINTER CONFERENCE

The 2021 Winter Conference hosted by Park Ridge Baptist Church in Gotha, Florida, has been cancelled.

WAYS TO GIVE



Give Online

You can make a secure donation online with a check or credit card.

Just click the **Give** button on our homepage at www.bfmnow.org



Mail a Check



All offerings should be addressed to:

BFM, c/o George Sledd
P.O. Box 471280
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1280

If your offering is for a specific missionary or project, it should be so designated.

The greatest need each month is for the Missionary Support Fund.



BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries to fulfill church-planting missions in the nations of the world

www.bfmnow.org



January 2021 Issue

ONLINE EDITION

PRAY & PRAISE

...IN THIS ISSUE

► **MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW:** PRAISE GOD for gradually restoring the Creiglow family back to health! PRAY for Cruzeiro do Sul and the families who have lost loved ones this year. PRAISE GOD for the construction starting in Jordão! [PAGE 1]

► **JOHN MARK & JUDY HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for the life of Jim Evans! PRAY for Jim's family as they mourn his earthly passing. [PAGE 5]

► **JUD & RAQUEL HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for another year of blessed ministry! PRAY as they continue to serve in Brazil. [PAGE 8]

► **AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY:** PRAISE GOD for the desire to be back in Brazil! PRAY that the Lord will make that a reality, for their travel plans, for their professors, and for protection from the virus. [PAGE 3]

► **NATHAN & CARRIE RADFORD:** PRAISE GOD for supplying furlough housing! PRAY for those in Kenya as cases are on the rise. PRAY as they experience "reverse culture shock", homeschool their daughters, and prepare furlough items. [PAGE 2]

► **ROGER & JULIE TATE:** PRAISE GOD for time spent with Him on the mountain in prayer! PRAY for Roger and Julie as they continue to minister in Kitale. [PAGE 4]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** PRAISE GOD for His faithfulness to Fabiane and Cleudson! PRAY for their leaders and those looking up to them. PRAY as they travel to a neighboring state to minister. [PAGE 3]

Pray for other faithful Missionaries not in this issue:
ODALI & KATHY BARROS

SCENES FROM SÃO PAULO

Pictures from Jud & Raquel Hatcher in Brazil



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View more pictures on our FaithWorks Blog!
blog.bfmnow.org



Ways to Pray for Your Missionaries in 2021

Join us in interceding for our faithful missionary families this year. [Page 6]