

## BAPTISM AT BREU RIVER

22 new believers from the Hunikuim Tribe baptized in the Breu River that runs along the border between Peru and Brazil!

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## INTENSIVE OUTREACH

A team of 8 volunteer evangelists joined with the Projeto Vida team for several evangelistic events.

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## CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Why is it important to connect with people? John Mark Hatcher shares some thoughts with us.

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## ONE LIFE AT A TIME

Roger Tate shares an encouraging story about how God is at work in the life of one of his students.

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# 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*

## DEVELOPING LEADERS TO EQUIP CHURCHES



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March 23, 2023

Dear friends,

We thank you for supporting us through prayer and financial giving. THANK YOU. Please, continue reading to know how your fervent prayers and investment impact the Kingdom of God in Brazil.

**A SWISS CHALET & 98 LEADERS** "Rede Convivência" (Life Together Network) had its first DayCamp on March 18th with pastors and their leadership teams to equip churches and inspire leaders. There were 98 participants from three different states. It was a memorable day of leadership development and exchange of ideas. "Rede Convivência" is a network of pastors and churches I started a few years ago that seeks to 1) Promote connectedness between pastors, pastors' wives, and leaders amongst churches and within the church to make disciples, inspire and develop new leaders and pastors for the local church ministries. 2) Recruit, train, place, and network leaders and pastors to plant new churches



and expand the Kingdom of God. **HEARTING IT TOGETHER FROM CHICAGO TO SÃO PAULO**

On April 27, 28 & 29, we are hosting the "Heart of the Matter" seminar with Pastor Hanibal Rodriguez from Wheaton Bible Church, Illinois. Pastor Hanibal ministered to my heart and our family when I underwent cancer treatment a year ago. On May 1st (a Brazilian holiday), he will also speak at a conference in Marília, São Paulo, with churches from several cities coming together.

**INTENTIONAL EXPANSION STRATEGY (IES)**

The Life Together Network provides monthly gatherings for pastors, leaders, and team members to nurture a healthy context for the

leaders to engage in metacognition in meeting local community needs with the Gospel and disciple-making. Healthy and intentional local churches need to develop a Biblically grounded and culturally relevant vehicle for people to hear the Gospel and to mature spiritually. Scripture is foundational, and the Gospel must always remain crystal clear. Additionally, understanding the culture (local context) and using the culture to reach the culture is vital to developing effective ministry strategies to connect with people. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." He was intentional about the way he engaged with people in the context they

were in and in a way they could understand. **Five core values are:** 1) **Communication** – precise, efficient, and frequent communication. 2) **Consistency** – all decisions need to be consistent with Scripture and the direction established by the church. 3) **Creativity** – there is a creative solution for almost everything. 4) **Commitment** – A commitment made is a promise kept. 5) **Recruitment** – recruit the

➔ **Continued inside on page 2 - JUD HATCHER**



View more pictures on our FaithWorks Blog!

"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

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Dave Parks • Mark Pyles

David Pitman • George Sledd

Sheridan Stanton • Jonathan Turner

Steve Wainright

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

## JUD HATCHER Continued from page 1

right people to mobilize and work strategically. We must recruit for the Kingdom and the local church to inspire new leaders and expand the Kingdom of God.

### AN EVANGELISTIC (MEXICAN FOOD) PICNIC

This next Sunday, we are having an Evangelistic picnic with friends (this is an initiative through our current church plant). Over forty non-believer friends are confirmed to join us for an afternoon of Mexican food, activities, and lots of fun as we connect more closely with our friends. We have invited our next-door neighbors, the auto mechanic, the restaurant owner down the street, and friends we have met over the last few months.

### INTERNATIONAL FOSTER CARE SYMPOSIUM & CENTER INAUGURATION

Raquel participated in the IV International Foster Care Symposium at the University of Campinas this week. She was one of the guest lecturers and spoke on "Trust-Based Relational Intervention." A new foster care center for intake and foster parent training will inaugurate on April 4th. Raquel actively recruits new



foster care parents and develops teams to assist orphans and at-risk children and parents.

### FAMILY TIME

Overall, everyone in the family is in good health. Sarah sprained her left ankle but is recuperating quickly. Our kids are doing well academically and are heavily involved in school sports. Sarah is a starter for the varsity volleyball team. Benjamin is a starter for the jr. varsity volleyball team. Laura saved up money while working at Culver's Restaurant in the States for horseback riding lessons in Brazil. Melissa is practicing basketball, soccer, and jiu-jitsu in the after-school program for elementary students. We love to hear our

kids pray, are blessed to see how the Lord is growing them spiritually, and have a deep desire to see their unsaved friends surrender to Christ. Raquel has a constant smile in her heart - the joy of the Lord is her strength. I am progressing well in my doctoral studies and am currently in chapter three of my dissertation.

### INVESTING

As you pray with and for us, please consider investing financially in our ministry fund - please designate for church planting, pastoral leadership training, the church network, or foster care.

Always grateful,  
Judson Hatcher



View more pictures on our  
FaithWorks Blog!  
[www.bfmnow.org](http://www.bfmnow.org)



Benjamin with Kaká  
(world famous Brazilian soccer player  
and a Christian)





## BLESSINGS ABOUND IN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES



Odali & Kathy Barros  
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March 16, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We praise the Lord for all the blessings and for each of you for your prayers and support. We pray that all of you are doing well. The ministries here are doing well. Last week Kathy and I went to visit the mission point of the community of Multirão. It was wonderful to see the work the team has done there. It was wonderful to see some who were kids, who now are teens, and are helping with the children. We are going to have a pizza day there.

The work in Ubim is also growing. It is wonderful now that we have a couple that lives closer who can help. They are doing Bible Study for those who have accepted Christ. They are also teaching some teens different instruments. Pray for these ministries as the teens grow in age, and also in the Lord, that they can help in the ministry.

We are excited about getting our camp buildings started. The rain is slowing down, which makes the work easier. Also, we are thankful for the financial help that has been given. God bless those who have given.

The mother church has been working on the wall around the church. A group has enjoyed getting together and doing the work. A wonderful time of fellowship and service. Even the ladies have helped fixing the food for everyone to eat together.

The building in the village

of Ariau should be solved in the next few weeks. But as we wait, we are meeting some of the people that used to go to the church there.

Please continue to pray that God will help us get others involved in the ministries so we reach more people in more places.

Thanks for your prayers and support! God bless each of you.

Love in our Savior,  
Odali and Kathy Barros



Odali inside the church building they plan to buy at the village of Ariau



The inside of the church they plan to buy at the village of Ariau



Multirão Mission

## REORGANIZING SEMINARY CLASSES



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March 17, 2023

Dear friends and family,

It is great to report that the Seminary is going great. We are in the middle of doing two classes now and when those are completed, we will do two more. This will be our spring semester. For the fall semester we will have four more classes for a total of eight classes for the year.

The difference with these classes is that they are being done via zoom. In years past that would not even have been thought of, let alone been possible. Also, we are planning to have not only the zoom classes but along with the zoom classes, we will have one of our professors on site at a local church for one of these four classes each semester. That puts a more personal touch on these classes.

We are reorganizing our classes so a student in Bluegrass Baptist Seminary can complete their master's degree in two years. Some ripples will be encountered, so pray for the students, the professors, and us as we implement these changes. The same degrees will be offered: Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries, Master of Arts in Biblical Studies. These degrees are with accreditation. Continue to pray for the Seminary and the students. As we look at all that is happening with Bluegrass Baptist Seminary all I can say is, "Our God is an AWESOME

God!"

We are planning to be in Brazil either in July or August for a major Pastoral Conference where we can introduce more Pastors to Bluegrass Baptist Seminary. We are just waiting for the time and place to be announced so we can buy our tickets. There we will be able to talk to some of the Pastors who are presently taking the courses and continue encouraging them. And of course we could not go to Brazil without visiting the grandbabies. God gave us the best for last when he gave us our three grands!!!

When we started Bluegrass Baptist Seminary, I had a dream. We have been able to complete a part of that dream so now on to the next part. My dream, wish, prayer was to train the Pastors of Brazil and then because of that training, use some of those graduates to start a four-year Seminary of their own. God is faithful to answer prayers. He is AWESOME!!! I am pleased to tell you that God has put that dream to work. Some of the previous graduates have opened that seminary. The name of it is ETEBABI. They will be using some of the material that Pastor Derek Coleman wrote for Bluegrass Baptist Seminary. They will be able to piggyback on some of our zoom classes to help enhance their curriculum. We serve a God of AWESOME capabilities.

Continue to pray for us as we carry God's Word to Brazil and for those who help in our support through Baptist Faith Missions.

In His service,  
Aj and Barbara





## **CREIGLOW** *Continued from page 8*

now consistently over 600 in both morning and evening services. We had been just over 500 each in January. February was better. Now in March almost every service has been 600+. Last Sunday 2 more were saved including another young lady from our deaf folks.

Two weeks ago, our deaf ministry started having discipleship classes. We have 4 basic training courses for all new converts. These are now being ministered to our new deaf members.

Last Sunday 2 newborns were presented to the church. We also found out that 6 more couples are expecting. Over the past weeks 3 couples have done “reveals” out at our house and property. This is an honor for Bev and me. Shame I am not there to participate.

As a reminder, our church has a team of 7 pastors. I am the senior pastor. While I am away the others pick up my slack. Pastor Ezi Lopes went to visit our congregation on the Breu River. This river runs along the border between Peru and Brazil. He baptized 22 new members at the Hunikuim tribe.

We sent a missionary there several years ago. José Maia was forced to leave by a federal judge. That is when one of the young girls, Damiana, went to live with Maias in Tipisca,

Peru. She got saved and she was the first person that I baptized in Tipisca in 2017. She later returned to the tribe and was used to reach them with the gospel. A couple of years ago I baptized the first 9 converts there. Among them was Cosma, Damiana’s twin sister. One of the

young men who was baptized is now their pastor. Aldenir is his name.

When Christ’s kingdom bursts out no one can stop it. The judge kicked out our missionary. One girl left with him. She got saved and went back to her people. Many others got saved. God called one of the young men to shepherd them. I baptized some, but am not there to care for them. Ezi went and baptized another large group. I didn’t tell him to go. One of the videos I saw of the baptism service showed the congregation singing “I have decided to follow Jesus” in the Hunikuim language as they made their way to the river. Who taught them that? Where did that come from? How can that be? It’s not me. It’s not José Maia. It’s not Ezi Lopes. You know who it is! To God be the glory.

Thanks for all your prayers and support. God bless you as much as He has us.

In Christ,  
Mike Creiglow

**"When Christ's kingdom bursts out no one can stop it."**

*Mike Creiglow*



*Pastor Ezi Lopez of First Baptist Cruzeiro do Sul baptizes a young man from the Hunikuim Tribe in the Breu River that runs along the border between Peru and Brazil. He baptized 22 new members at the Hunikuim tribe.*



# INTENSIVE OUTREACH



Bobby & Charlene Wacaser

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March 15, 2023

Dear Friends,

In my last correspondence I shared the marvelous news with you that Yago and Manoela, our missionaries to Portugal, were privileged to lead their first convert to Christ. Since then, they have kept up weekly Bible studies with Emanuel, the new disciple. This past Saturday, Emanuel braved the cold Atlantic waters and followed the Lord in baptism. He is thrilled with his daily walk with the Lord and the study of His word. At the same time, just as the Lord warned us, persecution has already begun. Some of his friends and family are trying to mock him and belittle his faith. Yago and Manoela were careful to point out to him to expect this kind of treatment and not to lose heart. In fact, it is a sign that the Lord is truly in and with him, for that is how the world and the devil treat God's children.

Yago and Manoela are still searching for a house closer to Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. They have begun several home Bible studies with believers scattered about in that general region. Where they live now is not conveniently located due to the cost of time and money getting to Lisbon. We are praying for them to find an adequate house or apartment within their budget where they can hold small groups and a weekend Bible club for children. Please pray with us for them to locate the right house for their work.

At our church's new location,

we have discovered some, let's say, "interesting" challenges. We knew that the building would need some work done on a leaky roof. That was included in the contract for the property owner to fix back in December. Here we are in the middle of March and almost daily we are having to haul out buckets full of rainwater that drops right in the middle of our auditorium. The problem is being resolved, but it's taking way longer than we anticipated and the constant rains require that we spend quite an amount of time mopping up water and moving furniture so that it won't get wet. The good thing about this challenge is that our members are getting a good taste of investing their energy and resources into the Lord's kingdom. We will be putting on a major Easter play production and we expect the building to be near full for two services. A leaky roof in the middle of a packed house could cause some very unpleasant scenes. So, pray that the workers can get the job done in time for the presentations and that the leaks are truly eliminated, please.

Today we went to the airport to pick up a team of 8 volunteer evangelists from Virginia. This is their 4th or 5th visit in about two years. They are some of the sweetest and humblest people we've met. But they are very bold in evangelism. They witness everywhere they go. In the markets, in the restaurants, in the parks and schools and the Lord has seen fit to bless with many people turning to



Bobby Wacaser preaching at an evangelistic outreach event



Team of 8 volunteer evangelists from Virginia with the Projeto Vida Team

Christ. They will be with us for 6 days of intensive outreach to over 4000 people outside of the church building. Mostly non-believers, for now, but we hope that many will be saved in these next few days of outreach.

In Christ's love,  
Bobby and Charlene Wacaser

**>> PRAY for those who have professed faith in Christ at these events.**



## FIRES IN KENYA



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March 9, 2023

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

Last month I mentioned the drought that is currently plaguing Kenya. We have now entered the time of the short rains, but it has not rained. Yes, it rained a couple of times but then stopped again. We have not received the rain we should be getting in the short rainy season and the situation is no better. The students are back on campus, but we are now having to truck in water from outside sources and fill our water tanks in that way. It is still extremely dry throughout the country and that leads to the adventure I don't want to experience again, and I'll recount in the next paragraph.

We live in the middle of the Kijabe forest, half-way down the escarpment into the Great Rift Valley. When I look up the escarpment, I only see forest. When I look down the escarpment, I only see forest. With no rain, the trees, leaves, and ground all dry up. The forest becomes a tinderbox. We have no-burn policies right now because of the threat of fire. But most Kenyans cook their daily meals over open fires just outside their front doors and burn their trash to dispose of it. Here in Kijabe, the wind also races up and down the escarpment at a furious pace

sometimes. The scenario provides for many unwatched fires which can then lead to, you guessed it, forest fires. About two weeks ago I was at the school, looking out my office window when I saw smoke rolling off the next hill over. I went over to the classroom block for a better look and saw half the hillside covered in smoke. I knew it was not a good sign, but I went home and didn't hear any more about it. Later that night, Julie looked out our kitchen window and said, "Is that a fire?" I looked out and up the hill, and sure enough, it was a large fire. It looked like it was about 150 yards up the hill. I immediately began thinking about what important things we needed to grab before jumping in the car and getting the blazes out of here. We began making some quick phone calls and found out that what, in the night looked like a couple hundred yards, was in reality on a ridge about a mile away. A bit more comforting, but not too comforting. I walked back up to the classroom block for a better look and saw that the entire ridge on the hill next to ours was engulfed in flames, with the nighttime wind whipping around like crazy. I watched it for a few minutes, not knowing in what direction it was going to go – down the hill, away from us, or towards us? We spent a couple of restless hours waiting to hear what direction the fire was going before we heard that

it was currently heading in the opposite direction. We eventually went to bed and went to a somewhat restless sleep, knowing that people in the area were staying awake to keep an eye on things. As a person who has always had a small fear of fire, I really didn't like that experience and don't want to go through it again. **PRAY FOR RAIN IN KENYA.**

On a happier note, I always like to know I'm doing something or involved with something that is making a difference and doing some good. Sometimes in ministry it can be hard to rate if you are making the kind of difference you desire. Julie reminds me that long-term change is generational. It can take a long time to make real changes. I often times wish it was more like constructing a building where you can watch the progress and see the growth. But sometimes you get little hints that what you are doing is making a difference, and sometimes it comes in unexpected ways. In this case, I needed to go up the hill to "the city" and go to the bank, but Julie had the car. So, I asked one of my students who owns a car for taxiing purposes to drive me to the bank and back. We got to talking while he was driving (as he was driving very fast, I might add). He comes from and grew up in a church that teaches a wealth and health gospel, where the pastor needs to be the example of receiving God's blessings by being rich and prosperous, and where church leadership/pas-

### REQUESTS YOU CAN PRAY FOR...

» **PRAY that Samuel's newly found convictions will stick and persevere until he reaches his village with the love of Jesus.**

» **PRAY for rain in Kenya.**

torate is a lucrative job opportunity funded by unsuspecting church members. My student Samuel (pronounced Samwel in Kenya) confessed that is what he thought the ministry was all about. Now, however, he says that he has learned that ministry is not about that, that ministry is about teaching the Word of God, sharing the gospel of Jesus, loving people and helping them know about salvation and following Jesus, and equipping the church for discipleship and reaching the nations. Now he wants to return to his own village and take the true gospel of Jesus back to a people who go to church every week but never hear about the true gospel. Making a difference one life at a time, folks. **PRAY THAT SAMUEL'S NEWLY FOUND CONVICTIONS WILL STICK AND PERSERVERE UNTIL HE REACHES HIS VILLAGE WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS.**

Blessings to all,  
Roger, Julie & Chloe

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTIONS



John Mark &  
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March 14, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Connections are important in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. This past Saturday evening at our youth meeting we discussed sharing the Gospel in deeds and words. Jesus said to his disciples, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." The primary way we first start sharing

our light is through our deeds. As the old saying goes, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." We discussed with the young people what they could do that would show God's love and open doors for sharing the Good News.

One of our top priorities is doing good deeds; not to earn our way to Heaven but to channel the love of Jesus to those who need the same gift of eternal life that we have received. Everyone needs to be loved with the unconditional love of God who, "makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." As many of you know, our primary way of making disciples through

inductive Bible studies. The people who come to these Bible studies are people with whom someone who is already a disciple of Jesus has made a connection.

Connections are made by helping people physically by taking them to the doctor, school or shopping; being a friend to those

who are lonely; listening to those who need an ear to hear them; helping them with studies or language learning; taking care of pets when the owners are away; watching their houses, taking in mail and other things when they are away; and so on.

When people know you love them by the deeds that you do, they begin to listen when you share what makes

you tick. If they conclude that you are happier, more at peace, or joyful than they feel, they are more likely to come when you invite them to a Bible study to share with them your motivating faith.

Your connection with us is the means that our Heavenly Father has used to keep us in France connecting with people who are or become seekers. One day you will connect with these folks in Heaven. And, I don't think you will have to learn a new language to speak to them.

So, thank you for connecting with us and keep praying for us as we try to connect with others and pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ,

John and Judy Hatcher

**"Your connection with us is the means that our Heavenly Father has used to keep us in France connecting with people who are or become seekers. One day you will connect with these folks in Heaven. And, I don't think you will have to learn a new language to speak to them."**

*John Mark Hatcher*

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# BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

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April 2023 Issue

# ONLINE EDITION

## PRAY & PRAISE

...IN THIS ISSUE

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► **MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW:** PRAISE GOD for how His kingdom is bursting among the Breu River! PRAY for these believers. PRAY for Bro. Mike as he continues treatments. [PAGE 8]

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► **AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY:** PRAISE GOD the seminary classes are going well! PRAY for the students, professors, and Aj & Barb as they reorganize some of their classes. [PAGE 3]

► **ROGER & JULIE TATE:** PRAISE GOD for keeping them safe through the forest fires surrounding their home! PRAY for sufficient, much-needed rain in Kenya. PRAY that Samuel's new convictions will stick until he reaches his village with the love of Jesus and the true Gospel. [PAGE 6]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** PRAISE GOD for the team from Virginia ready to share the Gospel! PRAY the leaks in their new sanctuary will be stopped, that the Lord would provide housing for Yago and Manoela, and strength for Emanuel. [PAGE 5]



## GOD'S KINGDOM BURSTING ALONG THE BREU RIVER IN SOUTH AMERICA



Gathering for baptism at the Breu River



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March 23, 2023

Dear Brethren,

Well I have now been here in the States for two months. It looks like I will be here for a while. I have been through many visits to the doctors, many tests and two surgeries. The recovery will be long and even once that is finished I still will have 6 weeks of daily radiation treatments. It could be another three months, so please continue to pray. So far the expenses have

been low and some friends and family have been helping out. I am so thankful that Baptist Faith Missions has provided such good health coverage.

Here is some really good news, at least for me. The church down home has paid for Bev's tickets to come and be with me for the coming months. She will be leaving Cruzeiro do Sul in a couple of weeks. The news from my doctors has all been pretty good. News that Beverly will be here with me is very, very good news.

Things are going well in the work. Attendance has been growing over the last weeks. We are



*Continued inside  
on page 4 - CREIGLOW*