

CELEBRATION IN BRAZIL

The Pitmans and Jonathan Turner recently traveled to Brazil and share reflections from their trip.

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UNEXPECTED GIFTS

John Mark Hatcher shares of how God orchestrated meeting a new couple for an evangelistic Bible Study.

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BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE IN PORTUGAL

Pray for a new believer in Portugal, that God would strengthen her faith.

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THANKSGIVING CONFERENCE

Join us in Michigan for our 68th Annual Thanksgiving Conference!

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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

CHURCH PLANT IN RODRIGUES ALVES CELEBRATES 30 YEARS



Mike & Beverly
Creiglow
mdcreig@hotmail.com
Caixa Postal 24
Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil
69980

September 26, 2023

Dear Brethren,

Grace and peace to all from the Creiglow duo. Well my calloused and stained hands are back. One of my friends once said, "If you want to find Mike Creiglow in a crowd just call for a raising of hands." Besides being back into all the preaching, teaching, meeting and counselling, I have accelerated the construction and repair part of my work. I have felt good and am recovering my strength to some degree. Most days I get back to the house around 7:00PM. I am so grateful to our Lord for being back into my home setting and routine.

A couple of weeks ago we held a baptism and Lord's supper service. I performed the baptism of 7 new members. We have had folks saved most weekends. There have been folks coming for membership from other Baptist churches both here and other cities. We have had more requests for baptism, including several from other denominations. Our attendance continues to nudge upward. Our Sunday school attendance is now above pre pandemic levels. The evening services are still just shy of where they were before COVID.

Bev and I went to visit our church in the city of Rodrigues Alves. This town



The congregation at First Baptist Church, Rodrigues Alves, Acre, Brazil

of 15 thousand people was just a village of a couple hundred when Dad first held services there in the 60's. They now have paved streets, two paved roads from Cruzeiro do Sul, banks, stores, schools and many churches. When Dad held services there on our trips up the Juruá River, it would take the better part of a day to get there in our houseboat.



Pastors Raimundo, Edson Lopes and their wives

baby (Adam) and gear. We slept in a tent, used an outhouse, and took our dip baths by a shallow well. On our recent visit Bev and I left the house at 6:00PM in her little Chevy SUV and an hour later stepped

out on a sidewalk and right into the big church building.

It took many years to establish the church there. It has now been 51 years since that small and slow beginning. They were celebrating 30 years of official church status. The building was full. The music was exceptional. The pastors are Edson Lopes and Raimundo. We sent Edson about 20 years ago. Raimundo is much younger and trained by Edson.

Next month Bev and I will be returning to the States for more medical procedures. I will be seeing my dermatologist, my surgeon and my oncologist for routine follow up visits that they required. Also, I have a retina repair surgery and cataract surgery on both eyes (3 separate procedures). We are scheduled to leave home on October 14 and return on December 6. Please continue to pray. Thanks to all who pray and give toward my health expenses.

I have one unusual request to make. Many of the places I have projects out in the bush, I need a portable generator. The local Honda dealer has a 1000W generator for just over \$1,500.00. The same thing costs only \$1,000.00 in the US, but I can't bring one from there. The freight and taxes would more than double the price. So if you can help me out, please do!

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

In Christ,
Mike Creiglow

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wainright50@gmail.com

Dave Parks, Editor | daveparks@twc.com



All correspondence concerning BFM or any of the missionaries, or requests for BFM brochures for distribution should be addressed to:

Dave Parks, Executive Secretary
3985 Boston Road
Lexington, KY 40514-1507
(859) 223-8374 | daveparks@twc.com



All offerings should be addressed to:

BFM, c/o George Sledd
P.O. Box 471280
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1280
(407) 417-0204 | grsledd@hotmail.com

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All correspondence concerning address changes, address additions, questions, and other information about mailing should be addressed to:

Steve Wainright
736 Berry Lane
Lexington, KY 40502
wainright50@gmail.com

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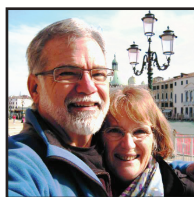
David Pitman • George Sledd

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Steve Wainright

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

UNEXPECTED GIFTS BEING BETTER MINISTERS OF JESUS



John Mark &
Judy Hatcher
JMHatcher@aol.com
2 T Impasse de la Picardie
31830 Plaisance du Touch
France

September 17, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are thankful for the many different ways God showers us with blessings. Some can be put in the category of "never changing" and others in the category of "surprise, surprise, surprise." Don't you like them both; the reliability of our eternal Father who never changes and the unexpected gifts of His amazing creativity?

About three days ago my phone rang and I was surprised to see the name of a pastor friend on the screen. We had not spoken to each directly by phone in a long time. That was a surprise, but the best was yet to come. He proceeded to tell me that he had been contacted by a couple who had seen his church's service on the internet. They wanted to get involved in a Bible study. Vincent, the pastor friend, thought that they would profit from a Bible study with us. He knows several people who have grown in the Lord through the Bible studies we lead. He wanted to contact me before putting them in contact with us.

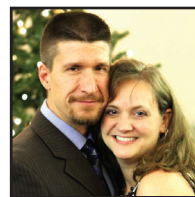
The couple, longtime "Jehovah's Witnesses", had recently concluded that the JW religion was not biblical. We got in contact with them and are beginning to have weekly interactive online Bible studies. Our first meeting lasted three hours. Over the years they had begun to have questions about the "Watch Tower Society" and its teachings. When they could not go to the meetings because of COVID, they began searching the Bible on their own and the Holy Spirit certainly used the Word of God to speak to their hearts. They live nearly two hours by car from us. We hope to be able to meet them face to face soon. Your prayers for this couple (S and T) and their two children would be greatly appreciated.

Here is a glimpse at our schedule this week. Sunday: weekly church service; Monday: internet Bible study of Jeremiah; Tuesday: Bible study with believers in the city of Mazere (about 1 ½ hours from our home); Wednesday: meeting to speak English with folks with whom we have been able to share the Gospel; Thursday: Judy and I meet with a disciple for family and spiritual growth counseling; Friday: Bible study with new couple mentioned above; Saturday: Bible study and children's Bible class in Campagne sur Arize (about 1 ½ from our home); and Youth meeting back in our town. We are delighted for the opportunities the Lord gives us to serve Him and those who serve with us. Above all, we are grateful for the wisdom and strength He gives us to do so.

And, we are very thankful that you are "in the ship with us!"

May God's richest blessings be evident to each of you,

John and Judy



Roger & Julie
Tate
rojuta@gmail.com
Moffat Bible College
P.O. Box 70
Kijabe, Kenya 00220

September 9, 2023

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

If you are reading this report, thank you. Thank you for taking an interest in what we are doing for the Lord in Kenya and for partnering with us for the glory of Jesus and for the spread of His kingdom. I really do appreciate your thoughts, prayers, and support and do not take it for granted, especially today as I not only am struggling with what to write in my report but I'm also struggling in my spirit. There is an anxiousness and strain in my spirit that I cannot explain and a very heavy spiritual and emotional weight that I am carrying today. Because of the inexplicable heaviness in my spirit today, I will remind myself what I am teaching my students in my Pentateuch class and see if it helps me. (An aside here: I had a number of students come to

me before classes opened and told me that they were very excited to be in my Pentateuch class. Then they said, "What is the Pentateuch, anyway?" I had to laugh). I have been teaching my students that the Old Testament is the foundation of the New Testament and that it is difficult to comprehend what the New Testament is teaching without the revelation of the Old Testament. The Pentateuch is the foundation of the Old Testament and without it you would have a hard time understanding the rest of the Old Testament. Genesis is the foundation of the Pentateuch and gives us the origins and beginnings of the world, humanity, and God's relations with humanity. Without Genesis you would have a hard time making sense of the Bible. The Abrahamic Covenant is the engine that drives the book of Genesis and thus, in turn, the Pentateuch, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. And the Abrahamic Covenant reveals the beginning of God's plan to redeem the nations, to fix the universal problem of sin and rebellion, and to bring eternal blessings to his people. God has a plan – to redeem the nations. God has inaugurated his plan – in

the Abrahamic Covenant. God has brought his plan to fruition – through his Messiah and Son, Jesus Christ. God has made his plan effectual in the lives of His people – you, me, and my beloved Kenyan students. Now, I have finished reviewing my initial lessons that I taught my students in my Pentateuch class, but I still am carrying the heavy spiritual weight in my soul. I must now try and have a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude today, in spite of the weight and struggle in my spirit. I know I must not be the only one with such a weight today and so I encourage each of you to also strive for a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude in all the struggles you also are facing today.

The new school year opened last week, and it was good to have all our returning students back on campus. It was also good to see a large batch of fresh, new faces on the brand-new students. Some were fearful, being so young and away from home for the first time in their lives. Others were older, experienced and married, and not as anxious and nervous about their new surroundings. But all are eager to learn the Bible and to love Jesus. In my orientation session for new students, I stressed that while academics is important, gaining knowledge is vital, and they all want

good grades, that the real reason they are at our school is to grow in their love and service of Jesus and to learn to become better ministers for God's people. I told them that our goal at Moffat was that at the end of their tenure at our school that they would be better ministers of Jesus: better at ministering God's Word, better at serving and loving God's people, better at pointing people to Jesus, and better at ministering to people's souls through the Word of God and love of Jesus.

Please be in prayer for the Kenyan people. I don't really know what the economic situation for all the nations around the world is, but I do know that in Kenya the situation is not good right now. Many people are striving financially, and many families are struggling. I know this is a common and repeated prayer request that I include in my newsletters, and you may be tired of hearing it. But the situation is still one of constant struggle for many families, and I wish that you would fervently pray for the people of Kenya, not just that economic struggles would be relieved but especially that they would know and love Jesus as their Savior.

Blessings to all,
Roger, Julie & Chloe

"I stressed that while academics is important, gaining knowledge is vital, and they all want good grades, that the real reason they are at our school is to grow in their love and service of Jesus and to learn to become better ministers for God's people."

-Roger Tate-

INFLUENCING PASTORS



AJ & Barbara Hensley

ajcaragua@gmail.com
30524 Mimi St
Sebring, FL 33870-0530
859-539-1424 Barb
859-539-2302 Aj

September 15, 2023

Dear friends and family,

I am rejoicing in the Seminary classes that have been taught. We are in the planning stage for next year's classes while our final semester is beginning this week.

This November will be extremely busy for us as the Seminary, Pastor Derek and myself, and many others will be involved in a Missionary/Pastor Conference with around 200 Pastors and families in attendance. We will be presenting the Seminary, the classes that have been accomplished, our accreditation through the Masters Program and what will be added this coming year: an accredited PhD Program! How AWESOME is the God we serve.

As of now the Seminary has graduated 23 to the Masters of Arts in Biblical Studies and Masters of Arts in Pastoral Ministries.

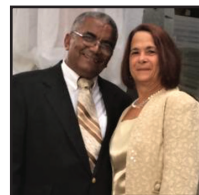
However, we have also completed several classes in Pastoral Ministries where the students received a certificate of completion. These students just

wanted to be better trained and informed Biblically.

This week I heard from one of these students. He is now the pastor of one of the mission points that we started. At the time, this man was just a member of that mission point in Natividade da Serra. And wanted to learn more about God's Word. This mission point has since been organized into a church. Israel was voted to be the pastor and his wife Joyce is making a wonderful pastor's wife. The letter I received this week from them was thanking us for the influence and the encouragement given to him. You never know how your words impact those you speak to. I am including pictures of the church there in Natividade da Serra. This type of letter helps to keep me in focus the objective for the seminary to take basic evangelical seminary training to the underserved pastors and church leaders in Brazil. God is moving and opening doors for the seminary. We are looking to open more locations in the coming years. Please keep Bluegrass Baptist Seminary in your prayers. Also pray for Baptist Faith Missions because if it were not for them, we would not be in Brazil doing God's work. Keep us in your prayers also as we will be traveling a lot in the next months.

In His service,
AJ and Barbara

SHARING ABOUT OUR SAVIOR



Odali & Kathy Barros

odali_kathy@hotmail.com
Iranduba, Amazonas
Brasil, S.A.

September 21, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hope all are doing well. We are doing well thanks to our Lord. Things are going well with our building and remodeling. The work at the camp is coming along, and the remodeling of the church building at Cacau is coming along. We are taking advantage of the dry season.

The special day we had with the couples fishing was great. Everyone had a great time and we had safety on the river. The day we had a special dinner to bring lost friends or friends that needed to find a church to go to also went well. It was a great dinner. We had a short devotion about salvation before the dinner. It was great!

Now we are working on getting more people involved in the church with the children and teens. It has been great to see several getting interested. They are planning a special day for the teens. Pray that God will help them see how important it is to help these teens. The world offers so many things that turn them from God. We need to help them live in this world and focus on our Savior.

The work in Ubim is growing. The

couple that works there with Kathy are teaching the kids different instruments and to sing. Soon we plan on starting regular services. The couple that is helping lives close to the village.

Thanks for your prayers and support. May God give each of us wisdom and strength to do His will!

Love in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Odali & Kathy Barros



SHARING CHRIST AT SCHOOL + ANOTHER BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE IN PORTUGAL



Bobby & Charlene Wacaser

bobbymichael_1@hotmail.com
Rua Laudelino Ferreira Lopes, 279
Sobrado 1, Novo Mundo
81050-310 Curitiba, PR, Brasil

September 23, 2023

Almost immediately after our return from Brazil, I began teaching at a high school near Tampa, Florida. The school is operated out of a local Baptist church and is administrated by Christian faculty and staff. I found out very quickly, though, that that doesn't mean that all the students are Christians. I am very grateful and thankful to the Lord for the privilege of being able to share the gospel and biblical precepts with the students in each of the 6 subjects that I teach. Almost every day I find a situation where I can share the gospel or apply the Word of God in practical ways to my students. I have come to love them, and I pray that the Lord will use me to win as many of them as will surrender to Christ this school year.

Our missionary couple to Portugal, Yago and Manoela, report that their little group is growing weekly. There is another baptismal candidate, Beatriz, whom we are praying for. She professed faith in Christ some time back but was not baptized then. After she told Manoela and Yago that she was ready to be baptized, several issues arose that have caused her to waver. I ask you to pray with us for

Beatriz, that she may be firm in her decision to follow Christ boldly in the waters of baptism. We know that she is enduring demonic attacks and our prayers will be used of the Lord for her victory. She and her sister, Bruna, had never gotten along well until Beatriz fully committed to Christ. Since then, they have both been serving joyfully in outreach ministries at the fledgling church. That's when the attacks on Beatriz's faith began. We know the enemy seeks to cause damage to anything that speaks of Christ's love and forgiveness, but we also know that "greater is He who is in them than he who is in the world."

Our mobile evangelistic team, Projeto Vida, had a very fruitful month of outreach. The Lord blessed and each of the 14 volunteers had the privilege of leading some to repent and surrender to Christ as Lord and Savior. Of course, where there is faithfulness, there is testing. Our van's tires went as far as they could, but two of them wore out this month. We are grateful to some of you readers who, when you heard of the need, gave funds to help replace them. The team only had to stop long enough to purchase new ones, change them, and continue their mission journeys. They are already in another town this week sharing the gospel, thanks to your willingness to help. May the Lord bless your generosity.

In Christ's love,
Bobby and Charlene Wacaser



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF GREAT COMMISSION WORK OF BFM IN BRAZIL

Reflections from Jonathan Turner

I am so thankful to our Heavenly Father and to Baptist Faith Missions for the wonderful privilege that I was given to travel to Brazil on the one-hundredth year anniversary of the Great Commission work of Baptist Faith Missions in that great nation. Accompanying me on this trip was my sister, Kimberly DePalma. She drove from Virginia to meet me. We left my home in Kentucky on Tuesday, September 5th to catch our first flight out of Saint Louis. My father-in-law, Ken Greenwell, who lives in Saint Peters, Missouri graciously allowed us to leave my sister's car in his garage and then drove us to the airport.

We boarded our flight bound for Houston with much excitement and some trepidation. We were excited because I had not been able to visit Brazil for eighteen years and Kim had not been back for thirty-seven years when she left at the age of seventeen. We were filled with trepidation because I had not been able to renew my Brazilian passport. I have dual citizenship and we were not sure what to expect when we would arrive in São Paulo and would be required to go through immigration.

We left Houston in the evening hours and after an approximately 9-hour flight we arrived in the São Paulo metro area at the Guarulhos International Airport Wednesday morning, September 6th. We went through immigration, and I showed my American Passport. The Federal Police officer looked at my passport, typed some information into her computer, and then asked if I had any Brazilian paperwork. Kim and I had spoken to a Brazilian friend who advised me to take all my Brazilian paperwork with me including my Brazilian birth certificate. I am thankful that I listened to his advice. I showed the officer my birth certificate. She entered more information into her computer and gave me the okay to proceed through. What a relief that was and an answer to prayer! Thanks be to our God who put a friendly face in front of us and who opened the door for us to enter the country legally and without any problems.

From the airport we took an Uber ride across the great city of São Paulo where we saw miles and miles of skyscrapers many of them filled with people who need the gospel of Jesus Christ. BFM has one missionary family, Judson and Raquel Hatcher and their four lovely children, who are trying to reach those folks. They are worthy of your support. The Uber ride took about two hours due to the distance and the traffic.

Upon arriving at the Hatcher's Kim and I showered, changed our clothes, packed a few things into our overnight bags and drove with Raquel and her four Hatcher kids for six hours to the interior of São Paulo state. We arrived around 11:00 p.m. at the house of Pastor Sergio Balbo and wife, Cris. They were gracious hosts. We enjoyed our time with them, and I feel like we made some lifelong friends. He is the pastor of the Igreja Batista da Fé in the city of Garça. They will be building a new building soon, God willing.

The next morning, we went with Pastor Sergio and Cris to the city of Lupércio to attend the one-day conference that Missionary Judson Hatcher had invited us to attend. It was well attended by several churches, their pastors, and pastors' wives. I had the opportunity to preach that morning, Thursday, September 7th which happened to be Independence Day in Brazil. I was also privileged to sit on two different panels with Pastor David Pitman and several Brazilian pastors and answer questions from pastors and others in attendance. It was a very encouraging time with good music, good preaching, good fellowship, and good food. It was the first time

this type of conference had been organized to bring the churches together. Many of these churches were started by faithful missionaries John and Alta Hatcher. The conference was organized to celebrate their shared heritage, to allow the pastors to network, and encourage each other. It was a well-organized event and they have already begun planning next year's conference. I am so thankful to Missionary Judson Hatcher for the invitation to come and to participate. After a long day we returned with our hosts to their home where we spent the night again.

The next day, Friday, September 8th, we were picked up by Raquel Hatcher and we made the drive back to São Paulo City. That night Kim and I were privileged to take the Hatchers out for a great meal and to enjoy some great fellowship. Saturday, September 9th, we left São Paulo and flew to Cuiabá. Cuiabá is the capital city of Mato Grosso, a state about the size of Oklahoma and Texas. Cuiabá is the place where Kim and I spent most of our childhood years. It is the place where in 1973 my dad, Missionary Richard Turner, traveled with Missionary John Hatcher to survey the city and to hold some evangelistic services. God blessed and land was bought, a church building was built, and God filled it with people. I would encourage you to visit the website bfmnow.org and read the history of this Great Commission work under our Legacy Library where all the previous letters of faithful missionaries have been digitized. You can read the letters that Dad wrote from this time. That church, Igreja Batista Boa Esperança (Good Hope Baptist Church) is still in existence and several other works have been started out of this church in other locations in the city of Cuiabá and in the state of Mato Grosso. Kim and I had the privilege of spending five days with folks that were saved, baptized, and added to a New Testament church during the ministry years of my parents in Brazil. They shared their testimonies with us and their memories of our parents. This Great Commission work in Cuiabá and the surrounding areas was a great work of God through faithful missionaries, Richard and Wanda Turner, Bob and Betty Creiglow, George and June Bean, and Harold and Ursula Draper. While we were in Cuiabá, we visited several churches. I preached Sunday morning, September 10th, at the Boa Esperança church. That was a real honor and privilege. It was also a very emotional time for Kim and me to return to the church where we grew up. I was baptized in that church after being saved at the age of seven during our furlough in Lexington. That Sunday night we visited the Igreja Batista Bereana (the Berean Baptist Church). I had the opportunity to speak for a few minutes and share a little of BFM's history.

Tuesday, September 12th, our host in Cuiabá invited family and friends to his house for a fish fry. There were approximately 30 people present. He asked me to speak, and I gladly accepted. Then several others gave testimonies of what my parents meant to them and how God used them in their lives. Mission

dollars from churches and individuals in the United States were used to send my parents to Cuiabá, to buy land, to build a building, to financially support my parents so that the gospel could be given to people in that city. Some of those people were at that fish fry recounting God's blessings and their

Let's be encouraged to support missions, to support missionaries in places like Cuiabá and São Paulo. There is still a great work to do. Christ has not yet returned which means that the Great Commission still needs to be the focus of churches.

-Jonathan Turner-



One view of the attendees of the conference in Lupércio, São Paulo. It was a great event.



A view of the church started by Missionary Richard Turner and that has been used to start other churches.

salvation in Christ. Those dollars were not wasted! Let's be encouraged to support missions, to support missionaries in places like Cuiabá and São Paulo. There is still a great work to do. Christ has not yet returned which means that the Great Commission still needs to be the focus of churches.



The young man, Gladson, we met on our flight to Cuiabá and were able to witness to.

Wednesday night, September 13th, we visited the Igreja Batista Jardim do Pinheiros (Garden of the Pines Baptist Church). This was a church started by Missionaries Harold and Ursula Draper. This church is without a pastor and has been for about two years now. Pray for them.

Thursday, September 14th we began the long journey back to the United States. Our time had flown by, and it was difficult to leave, but we also were missing our families back in the States. We arrived safely back in Saint Louis, Friday, September 15th. My hope is to return, God willing, in a year or two to visit Cuiabá again but also to visit some other works in Brazil. I would encourage everyone to make a trip to the mission field and visit one of our missionaries.

Finally, let me quickly share some other ways God used my sister and me while we were in Brazil. We had some God-ordained appointments to keep that we were not aware of when we got on that first plane in Saint Louis. On our flight from São Paulo to Cuiabá on Saturday, September 9th we sat in a row with a young man named Gladson. Kim was the first to strike up a conversation and he was more than

willing to talk to us. After a while, the conversation turned to spiritual matters. He shared with us that he had been raised in some type of Assembly of God Church. However, he could not give us a good testimony of salvation. He also shared that he had been taught and still believed that one can lose their salvation. Kim and I both were able to share the gospel with him. We are now friends on social media, and I am planning on sending him some gospel material. Pray for God to bless those efforts.

Our second God-ordained appointment was with a young man from Sweden. This young man had never heard the gospel. He was staying in the house where we were staying. He was in Brazil doing some volunteer work with two brothers of our host. He went with us to the Sunday morning service at Boa Esperança where I was preaching, and the gospel was given. Imagine that! God brings an American/Brazilian to Cuiabá, Brazil to preach in a service where a Swede who has never heard the gospel will attend a Baptist church service for the first time. Who but God!

Our third God-ordained appointment was with an Uber driver. He was a young man who also had been raised in some kind of evangelical church but was not currently attending. During our conversation he shared that his mom still attended church, and he tried to do good, and that he said his prayers every day. We were able to share a little bit of the gospel with him during our short ride. Only God knows how those interactions will be used.

I pray this recounting of our trip to Brazil will encourage you and be used of God in some way in your life to bless you and increase your love for missions particularly the work that God is doing through the missionaries of Baptist Faith Missions.

REPRESENTING BFM IN BRAZIL

By the Numbers, David Pitman

2,055 miles traveled in 3 states
 24 churches visited/influenced
 20 pastors & their families received personal visit / ministered / prayed with
 21 cities
 1 foster care center
 9 speaking engagements (David)
 2 debate panels
 4 speaking engagements (Kym Pitman)
 1 pastors & leaders breakfast with 43 participants
 5 Sunday services and 320 people total
 Saturday Churches Gathering in Paraná with 130
 Conference 250 people
 40 - 50 decisions (salvation, baptism, reconciliation, ministry)

Reflections by Kym Pitman

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

It was my honor to speak to the ladies of Brazil several times during our visit, concluding with a devotion on fruitfulness at the September 7th event using the deep-rooted tree of Psalm 1 as my text. The ladies were very attentive and patient while my translator, Carol, and I did our best to communicate the same thoughts.

Also, the homes that we visited were very hospitable. And the bond we have in Christ overcame many language barriers. It was truly a foretaste of Heaven being there with brothers and sisters with whom we will spend eternity worshipping our Lord.

It was also a trip full of wonder as we saw places that we had only heard about when missionaries were on furlough, or that we had read about in the Mission Sheets. I am so thankful for the goodness of God that allowed me to meet in person those ministering in Brazil who still faithfully honor their Lord and their mentors, to see the places in which they now minister, and to have the opportunity to hear their prayer requests so that I can understand better how to pray for their specific needs. These are memories and friendships that I will always treasure. Many thanks to Jud and Raquel Hatcher for their invitation and their hospitality.

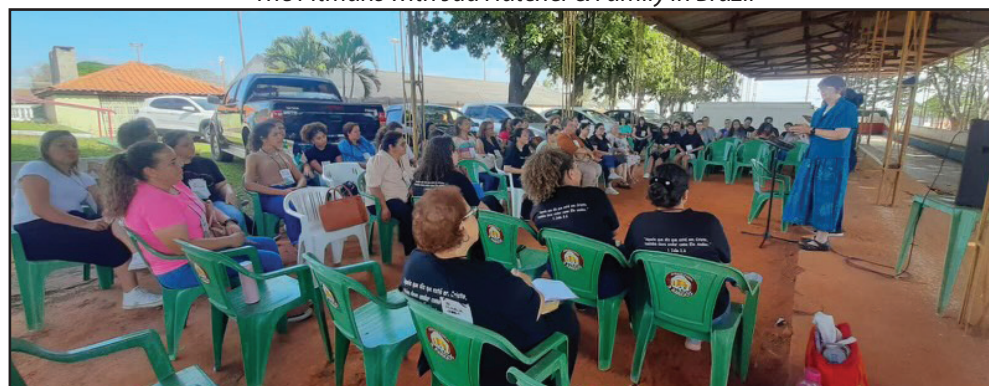
View more
pictures online!
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David and Kym Pitman in Brazil



The Pitmans with Jud Hatcher & Family in Brazil



REPRESENTING BFM AT G3 IN ATLANTA

Update from Mark Pyles

The G3 Conference in Atlanta on September 21-23 was filled with amazing preaching on the sovereignty of God, and great worship from a crowd of over 8,400 people. And it was such a privilege to represent BFM at our booth and conversing with so many people. Our conversations varied from potential missionaries (one of which was a medical doctor missionary seeking a new agency), to pastors seeking new missions agencies to support, to members from various churches across the country, to friends and acquaintances.

The booth was manned by Sheridan Stanton and myself, joined by John Moore, who oversees the missions ministry at Grace Baptist in

Fairborn.

It was such an honor to explain to so many people there what makes BFM so unique — particularly our doctrinal beliefs concerning the sovereignty of God in salvation and that we do not send missionaries but come alongside the local church as they send missionaries. So many people showed great interest in us when we shared those distinctives.

It was a humbling privilege to represent the wonderful missions ministry of BFM. We pray that the contacts made result in new relationships and that God would use them for the furtherance of the gospel across the world!



BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

THANKSGIVING OFFERING FAQ

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Will you please take the time to read this appeal for a much-needed generous Thanksgiving Offering? Maybe you have not given in previous years. May we explain the importance of the Thanksgiving Offering for the continued support of your missionaries? And may we invite you to join us this year in giving to supply the benefits and services we have committed to our missionaries?! *Thank you!*

1. "WHY DO WE HAVE A THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

We have a Thanksgiving Offering because WE NEED IT for the coming year to supply the financial commitments we have made to our missionaries for the services and benefits we provide from a common contribution receptacle account called the "Missionary Support Fund." The monthly contributions we receive for the Missionary Support Fund are not sufficient to supply ALL of the benefits and services we commit to provide for our missionaries. So, we NEED the Thanksgiving Offering to supplement the monthly Missionary Support Fund offerings.

2. "WHY IS THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING SO IMPORTANT?"

The Thanksgiving Offering is ESSENTIAL because it is the only source of funds for supplying many of our missionaries' needs during the coming year. Those services and benefits NOT sufficiently funded by monthly offerings to the Missionary Support Fund are supplied by contributions received in the Thanksgiving Offering.

3. "WHAT SERVICES AND BENEFITS DOES THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING HELP PROVIDE?"

The Thanksgiving Offering enables us to provide the services and benefits we have committed to our missionaries "as the Lord provides" – *in addition to monthly salary, housing and ministry allowances, and hospitalization.* These benefits include:

- reimbursements for missionaries' Furlough (Home Assignment) airfare/transportation expenses to and from the field
- reimbursements for their hospitalization personal deductibles for the year (their personal deductible is \$1000 and we reimburse them \$600 of that amount)
- children's school/education expenses (if funds are available)
- expenses for mailing *BFM News & Reports* (missionaries' monthly letters, reports, updates -- and a brief summary report of all offerings given through BFM that month)
- expenses for maintaining Stateside office for communication and daily services – there are a lot of activities that go on Stateside to keep our missionaries functioning on their fields of service

4. "HOW ELSE IS THE MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND SUPPLIED?"

The primary supply for the Missionary Support Fund is from monthly offerings that are given to the Missionary Support Fund. These monthly Missionary Support Fund offerings are used to supply the "Essential Missionary Support" [EMS] that we have committed to the missionaries for their standard essential monthly expenses. These include:

- their monthly salary
 - their monthly standard housing allowance
 - their monthly standard ministry allowance
 - their monthly hospitalization premium
 - expenses for printing *BFM News & Reports* – their monthly newsletters, reports, and updates
- We just wish to reiterate – and we cannot over-emphasize – that we have no sources of funding for these*

committed benefits other than the monthly Missionary Support Fund and the Thanksgiving Offering. If we do not receive the necessary funding through these two contribution streams, we cannot disburse the benefits.

5. "WHY IS THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING GIVEN AT THE THANKSGIVING SEASON?"

- The BFM Thanksgiving Offering began many years ago in conjunction with the annual Thanksgiving Missionary Conference in the Detroit-area and has continued that way to this day.
 - Also, the Thanksgiving season is good reminder of the thanks we owe God for His Indescribable Gift in Jesus Christ – and our Thanksgiving Offering is a good way to express that thanks.
 - And, the Thanksgiving season and Offering is a good occasion for us to give missionary offerings so others, also, may hear the blessed Good News of salvation through Christ...and, in this way, share our Thanksgivings to God with others and MULTIPLY STILL MORE THANKSGIVINGS TO GOD.
- See 2 Corinthians 9.11-15

6. "HOW CAN I GIVE MY THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

If your church receives a Thanksgiving Offering for the missionaries supported through BFM, then we encourage you to give your offering through your church. Most of the Thanksgiving Offerings that are given by churches are made up by the voluntary offerings of individual members who give to the Offering. *Pastors, we encourage you to give your church the opportunity to contribute to our BFM Thanksgiving Offering.*

7. "WHAT IF MY CHURCH DOES NOT RECEIVE A BFM THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

If your church does not participate in the Thanksgiving Offering, you may send your personal gift to the Treasurer of BFM and *designate it "Thanksgiving Offering."*

Baptist Faith Missions / Pastor George Sledd,
Treasurer
P.O. Box 471280
Lake Monroe FL 32747-1280

You can also give online at www.bfmnow.org and click on 'Give' and *designate for "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo field.*

8. "CAN I GIVE MY THANKSGIVING OFFERING ONLY AROUND THANKSGIVING ... OR DURING NOVEMBER?"

No. Many churches and individual Friends of BFM give on or around "Thanksgiving Sunday." However, offerings begin coming in before November and continue to come in to the Treasurer during the months following November, and sometimes on into the next year. *You can give your Thanksgiving Offering any time. But, all offerings designated "Thanksgiving Offering" go toward the same collective Offering for that year.*

9. "HOW IS THE "EVERY FRIEND A GIVING FRIEND" PERSONAL GIVING MINISTRY PERTINENT TO THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

We introduced the "EVERY FRIEND A GIVING FRIEND" ministry and plan during the 2003 Thanksgiving Conference. "Every Friend a Giving Friend" encourages each of our missionaries' friends to personally participate in regular giving to the Missionary Support Fund. This plan is nothing new or unique; it is just another way to express and articulate what the Friends of BFM have been doing since the inception of the Mission.



It is also patterned after the instructions Paul gives us in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9: that is,

1. to purpose in your heart to give an offering (9:7)
2. to give as generous an offering as God enables you (8:1-3 & 9:6)
3. to ask God – and trust Him – to supply you with the funds you will need to give the offering (9:8)
4. to plan and begin preparing even a year ahead of time (as Paul instructed the Corinthians and the other churches to do) (8:10-11 & 9:2)
5. to give your offerings to the Lord and to the Lord's missionaries willingly and cheerfully (9:7)
6. to express your love and obedience to the Lord through your generous giving (8:8 & 9:13)
7. to give as your response to Jesus Christ's grace and gift of Himself to you (8:9 & 9:15)

We encourage every Friend of BFM to be a **Giving Friend** and give a personal Thanksgiving Offering to help supply our missionaries' needs that are met through the monthly Missionary Support Fund.

"EVERY FRIEND A GIVING FRIEND" also challenges each Friend of BFM to personally participate in missions by giving monthly offerings *over and above the regular tithes and offerings you give to your church to meet the needs of your local church's ministries.* We encourage each **Giving Friend** to make a personal commitment to either begin giving or increase your giving each month to the Missionary Support Fund.

10. "WHY DO YOU SET GOALS FOR THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

We set goals because the goal amount is keyed to the projected needs we expect to provide for the coming year of missionary ministry. And, when we increase the commitments, services, and benefits we give our missionaries so they can better fulfill their ministries, our needs for the necessary funds increase also.

And, please remember with us that we cannot approve and commit to increasing the services and benefits we provide for our missionaries unless we believe the Lord will supply those funds through your giving.

OUR 2023-24 THANKSGIVING OFFERING GOAL IS \$50,000.00.

Would you please pray and ask the Lord of the Harvest what he would have you give to this year's Thanksgiving Offering? And then ask Him also to supply you with that gift from his inexhaustible resources of Grace?

Thank You, GIVING FRIENDS!

THANKSGIVING OFFERING APPEAL

Will you pray about and consider giving your personal offering toward the 2023 THANKSGIVING OFFERING?

There is just no way that we can exaggerate or over-state the importance of our Thanksgiving Offering. The Thanksgiving Offering is indispensable if we are to maintain providing our missionaries with the levels of service and benefits we are giving them now – and we certainly can't increase the benefits we give them without a very generous Thanksgiving Offering.

All the offerings given to the Thanksgiving Offering go directly toward the support of our missionaries by funding the commitments, benefits, and services we give them over the course of the next year.

Consider these truths:

- ▶ All the commitments, benefits, and services we give our missionaries are funded through offerings and contributions given to the *Missionary Support Fund*
- ▶ The only contribution streams that supply the Missionary Support Fund are the monthly offerings given to the *Missionary Support Fund* and the THANKSGIVING OFFERING
- ▶ The monthly *Missionary Support Fund* contributions do not sustain all the accrued annual disbursements for the commitments, benefits, and services we give our missionaries
- ▶ Therefore, we need and depend upon the THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS to make up for the monthly deficits we will incur in providing the commitments, benefits, and services we give our missionaries over the upcoming year
- ▶ This year's THANKSGIVING OFFERING will make up for next year's monthly deficits

in *Missionary Support Fund* contributions and disbursements

- ▶ IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE SUFFICIENT THANKSGIVING OFFERING FUNDS NOW IN ADVANCE OF NEXT YEAR'S DISBURSEMENTS, THEN WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REDUCE THE COMMITMENTS, BENEFITS, AND SERVICES WE GIVE TO OUR MISSIONARIES
 - we have no other reserves, subsidies, or endowments to draw from or fall back on
 - we cannot borrow money to operate
- ▶ So, it is essential that we all give as generously as possible so our missionaries' needs will be supplied
- ▶ Will you give a generous personal THANKSGIVING OFFERING right now?
 - and, at the same time, may we encourage you to commit to making monthly – even recurring – offerings to the *Missionary Support Fund*!
- ▶ Your missionaries' needs will be met – and thanksgivings to God will abound and increase and continue!



WE NEED TO REACH FOR OUR \$50,000.00 THANKSGIVING OFFERING GOAL!

GIVE NOW!

THANKSGIVING OFFERING FAQ

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Visit our FaithWorks Blog to learn more about this offering and some of our most frequently asked questions.

www.bfmnow.org/tgiving-faq/



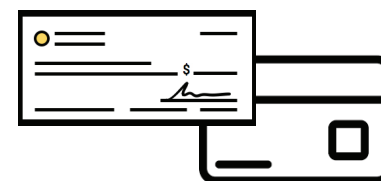
WAYS TO GIVE



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.



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We encourage you to like, share, and retweet our posts!

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



October 2023 Issue

ONLINE EDITION

PRAY & PRAISE

...IN THIS ISSUE

► **ODALI & KATHY BARROS:** PRAISE GOD for the special events they have had recently! PRAY for unbelievers who heard the Gospel at the special dinner. PRAY their church members will see how important it is to help the teens. [PAGE 3]

► **MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW:** PRAISE PRAISE GOD for an encouraging trip to visit the church in Rodrigues Alves! PRAY for their upcoming travels and for their health. [PAGE 1]

► **JOHN MARK & JUDY HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for unexpected opportunities to share Christ! PRAY for God to open their eyes and hearts to the truth. [PAGE 2]

► **AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY:** PRAISE GOD for the testimony of Pastor Israel! PRAY for Bluegrass Baptist Seminary. [PAGE 3]

► **ROGER & JULIE TATE:** PRAISE GOD for His plan unfolded through the Pentateuch! PRAY for the people of Kenya's struggles and that they would know Jesus as Savior. PRAY for Roger as he ministers to his students. [PAGE 2]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** PRAISE GOD for the outreach of the Projeto Vida team and God's provision for new tires! PRAY for Bro. Bobby's unbelieving students. PRAY for Beatriz in Portugal. [PAGE 3]

Pray also for our other faithful
missionaries who are not in this issue:
JUDSON & RAQUEL HATCHER

BFM REPRESENTED IN BRAZIL

Directors Jonathan Turner & David Pitman, and Mrs. Kym Pitman recently traveled to Brazil to represent BFM at a conference celebrating 100 years of Great Commission work of BFM in Brazil.

Jonathan Turner writes, "...several others gave testimonies of what my parents meant to them and how God used them in their lives. Mission dollars from churches and individuals in the United States were used to send my parents to Cuiabá, to buy land, to build a building, to financially support my parents so that the gospel could be given to people in that city. Some of those people were at that fish fry recounting God's blessings and their salvation in Christ. Those dollars were not wasted! Let's be encouraged to support missions, to support missionaries in places like Cuiabá and São Paulo. There is still a great work to do. Christ has not yet returned which means that the Great Commission still needs to be the focus of churches..."

➡ More inside on pages 4-5!

68th ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MISSIONS CONFERENCE

in the interests of Baptist Faith Missions

NOVEMBER 13-14-15, 2023

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH | Dearborn Heights, MI

Pastor Terry Adkins | 313.920.7389 | pastorterrynewhope@yahoo.com

CONFERENCE THEME:

REDEEMED HOW I LOVE TO PROCLAIM IT
"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His Name:

make known His deeds among the people." -Psalm 105:1

Do you have any questions about Baptist Faith Missions, about who we are and what we do? Please join us at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday for our BFM advisory meeting (bring your questions and/or suggestions). EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 13TH

5:00 p.m. – Dinner
6:30 p.m. – Music
6:45 p.m. – Singing
7:15 p.m. – Message, Pastor George Sledd, Jordan Baptist Church, Sanford, FL
8:00 p.m. – Singing
8:25 p.m. – Message, Missionary Bobby Wacaser, Curitiba, Brazil

TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 14TH

9:30 a.m. – Music & Singing
9:45 a.m. – Message, Pastor Peter Santisteban, Victory Baptist Church; Russelville, KY
10:30 a.m. – Worshipping in Song
11:00 a.m. – Break
11:10 a.m. – Message, Pastor Mark Pyles, Grace Baptist Church; Fairborn, OH
12:00 Noon – Lunch

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 14TH

1:30 p.m. – BFM Advisory Meeting
Everyone is welcome! Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about BFM or our missionaries.

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 14TH

5:00 p.m. – Dinner
6:30 p.m. – Music
6:45 p.m. – Singing
7:15 p.m. – Message, Lay Pastor Dave Parks, Buck Run Baptist Church; Frankfort, KY
8:25 p.m. – Message, Missionary Mike Creiglow, Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 15TH

9:45 a.m. – Music
10:00 a.m. – Singing
10:15 a.m. – Message, Pastor David Sears, Immanuel Baptist Church; Monticello, KY
11:00 a.m. – Singing
11:15 a.m. – Message, Pastor David Pitman, Addyston Baptist Church; Addyston, OH
12:00 Noon – Lunch



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