

ANSWERED PRAYERS

John Mark Hatcher shares of answered prayer in reaching out to unbelievers.

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TRAVELING TO PORTUGAL

Bobby & Charlene Wacaser are headed to Portugal to encourage missionaries Yago & Manoela!

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SPRING CONFERENCE

Save the Date! Our Spring Conference is coming in April.

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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

MINISTERING TO STREET PEOPLE IN MANAUS



Odali & Kathy Barros
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Brasil, S.A.

January 16, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We pray and hope that all of you have had a blessed beginning to a new year. Things are going well here. Thanks for your prayers and support.

We had a great New Year's Day dinner at church. After the dinner, I told the church that we were going to take all the food that was leftover to the street people in a plaza in Manaus. They all agreed. I went the next day with a group and we gave out several plates of food. We plan on doing this more times.

We have several new families coming to our church. The population is growing on this side of the river. What is great is that they are getting involved in the church ministries. Our fellowship meals have been wonderful. More couples are getting involved. It makes a great time for fellowship and also to talk about ministry.

We have started the next building at the camp. With this being rainy season, things are a little slower. Also, we plan on getting back to the church of Cacaú. There we need to raise the floor. We have to take quite a few truckloads of dirt, then spread it out so we can concrete it. With the rain,



Serving leftovers to street people in Manaus

that slows the work down. Since the church is right on the edge of the street, we can't put too much dirt on the sidewalk. As the dirt is being dumped, we have to have workers put it inside the church. The Lord willing, we can get that done soon.

We have had several saved. The Lord willing, we will have baptism in the new baptistry. We used to baptize at the lake. Now the church has built a baptistry.

May God bless each of you. Thanks for your prayers and support. You are an important part of the ministry God

has called us to do.

Love in Christ,
Odali and Kathy Barros

View more pictures on our FaithWorks Blog at bfmnow.org



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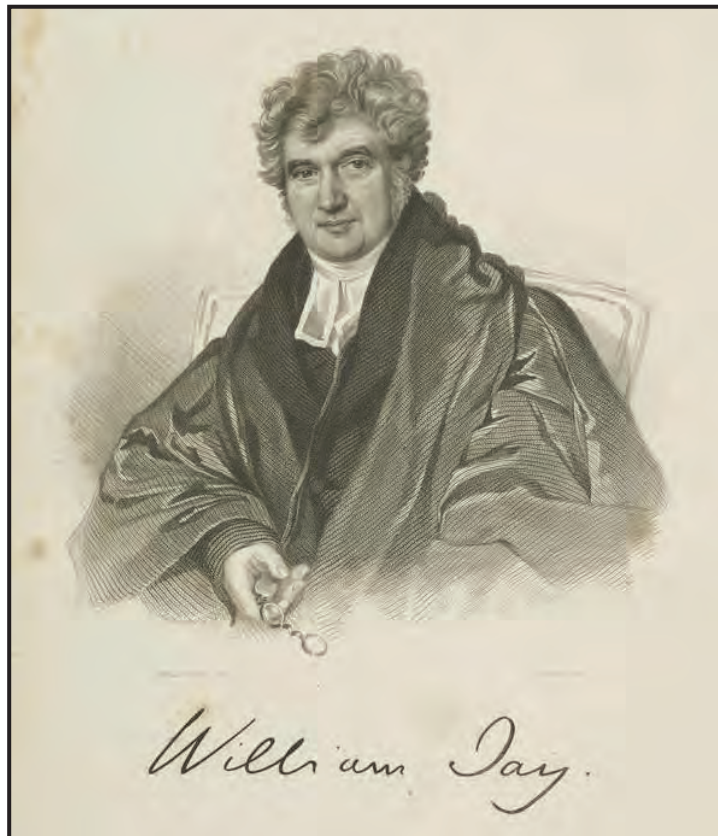
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May God give them wisdom and discernment
as they prayerfully make decisions.

"...ACCORDING TO THE JOY IN HARVEST"

*"They joy before Thee according to the joy in harvest." - Isaiah 9:3*They joy before
Him according to the
joy in harvest. And
what is this joy?It is a joy connected
with *exertion*. Reaping
is no easy thing. But
this is not all that
is required. There
is manuring and
ploughing and sowing
and harrowing and
weeding. All these are
previously necessary
to the joy of harvest.
The husbandman
does not eat the bread
of idleness. His labor
fills his hands. Every
season has demands
upon him, and the
end of one work is the
beginning of another. Indeed,
nothing valuable is to be
obtained without diligence
and difficulty; yes, it would
not be valuable or prized if it
were acquired priceless and
painless.And are not we to exercise
ourselves into godliness? And
is it nothing to worship God
in spirit and in truth; and to
watch in all things; and to pray
without ceasing; and to keep
the heart with all diligence?
"But the grace of God does
all this *for* us." It does. But
it is equally true, that it does
all this *by* us too. God does
not believe and repent, but
enables us to believe and
repent. We run the race that

William Jay (1769 - 1853)

is set before us, we fight the
good fight of faith, though
in Him is all our help found.This joy requires
patience. The husbandman
soweth in hope, but the
accomplishment of his hope
is future. Weeks and months,
and many dreary weeks and
months, intervene before his
wishes can be fulfilled. Yet
he is not foolish enough to
suppose that he has labored
in vain, because he cannot
reap as soon as he has sown;
or childishly eager enough to
cut down the grain green to
hasten the harvest. But what
does he? "The husbandman
waiteth for the precious
fruit of the earth, and hath
long patience for it, untilhe receive the early
and latter rain." And
so Abraham, after he
had patiently endured,
received the promise.
Christians also are
required to wait. And
let them remember
that in due time they
shall reap, if they faint
not. And they have
not long to wait. Their
salvation is nearer than
when they believed. Yet
a few more rising and
descending suns, and
it shall be said, "Put ye
in the sickle, for the
harvest is ripe." In the
mean time the process
is hourly advancing to
maturity, and the endshall prove that every thing
is most beautiful and most
profitable in its season. "It is
good that a man should both
hope and quietly wait for the
salvation of the Lord."This joy is not free from
anxieties. When the seed is
first thrown into the ground,
it seems lost; and when it
revives from a kind of death
and springs up, it has to
encounter the frosts of winter,
the changings and blights of
spring, the lengthened dryness
or wetness of summer. And
when the period is arrived for
securing the precious treasure,

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Continued from Page 2

solicitude is more alive and alert. The husbandman often rises and looks at the sky. Ten times in the day he examines the glass. He goes about with a heavy heart, and a depressed countenance, and often forebodes the worst; and it is not till he has safely housed the whole, that he can give up himself to satisfaction and delight. But how will this apply to Christians? Is there any thing precarious in the purpose and promise of God? No; but it is otherwise with their apprehensions. Their eternal prospects awaken all their concern and they have a thousand doubts and fears concerning their safety and success. Am I an heir of heaven? Is this repentance towards God? Is this faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ? Can these wandering thoughts and imperfect desires be prayer? What if after all I should fail of the grace of God, and come short of the glory to be revealed!

But this joy is *great*. When the harvest is come, every face betrays pleasure. The very toil seems delight. They that pass by say, "We bless you in the Name of the Lord." "He that soweth, and he that reapeth, now rejoice together." Pennant tells us, in his Travels, that in parts of Scotland he sometimes saw large numbers reaping to the sound of a musician behind

them, playing on the bagpipe; and thus enlivening the scene, and softening the work. And David says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy;" or as it is in the margin, reap singing. And he adds, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." And who has not heard the shoutings of the rustics, as the last loaded wain returned from the field, covered with green boughs? And who has not witness the rude mirth of harvest-home? But if "the poor laborers sing," think of the owner. Now his anxieties are dispelled; now his patience is rewarded. Now his exertion and expense are abundantly repaid; his garner is full, affording all manner of store; and he hails, in his possession, the means of indulgence, improvement, and wealth. Yet what is this joy compared with the Christian's? The one is for the body, the other for the soul. One is for time, the other is for eternity. One is common to the wicked and the righteous; the other is peculiar to the subjects of divine grace. The one may gender intemperance and sin; the other sanctifies while it contents.

Let me learn, then, to improve the works of creation to pious purposes, and make nature a handmaid to grace.

And let me be thankful for the harvest with which we

have so recently been favored. He has again "prepared of his goodness for the poor." All, indeed, are concerned. "The king is served by the labor of the field." But kings have many ways of living that poor people have not. We do not think of palaces or mansions, so much as of the dwellings of the poor, when we view the waving fields. He has not only given us plenty, but afforded us the appointed weeks of harvest. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

Yet man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Let me therefore labor not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life. All spiritual blessings in heavenly places are provided and presented. Yet the season for securing them is limited, short, and uncertain. Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation. And how many, in consequence of neglect, have exclaimed, at a dying hour, the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!

[Excerpt from "Morning Exercises for Every Day in the Year" by William Jay, September 11 Entry (New York: The American Tract Society, n.d.)]



We are pleased to announce the completion of what has probably been a 10-year journey: making available to you for public access and viewing the digital copies of our BFM newsletter, The Mission Sheets, from the very first mimeographed offering report to the present.

For decades [indeed from 1942], the paper copies for the Mission Sheets had been faithfully kept, preserved, and stored in Brother Hafford Overbey's homes and garage. Several years ago, Bobby Creiglow and Darrell Messer took it upon themselves to go through all those old file cabinets and boxes and separate all the individual issues by the month and year and group them in chronological, successive order.

Then came the task of having them digitized. We searched for how it could be done and who could do it for us. After reaching several dead-end conversations with public vendors, the Lord brought us into contact with Doug Brook, a faithful servant in Emmanuel Baptist Church, Bellbrook OH where Darrell Messer pastors. Doug performed the service of scanning and digitizing each issue and storing them in order – and even transferred the files to our Dropbox. But they were still out of sight for public access and viewing.

So Lauren Pyles has now completed the transition of all those digital files to our website! We call it our Legacy Library.

Here is the link to that page: <https://www.bfmnow.org/legacy-library/> (or scan the QR code below). or you can go to our website <https://www.bfmnow.org/> and click on "Our History" in the top menu bar and go to "Legacy Library."

We pray that these records will continue to serve as a public witness and testimony to God's faithfulness to us and inspire us to continue to reach the ever-changing new generations of those who must hear the Gospel of God's salvation in Jesus Christ!

There are also many pictures in the issues stored in our Legacy Library! Scan the QR Code to visit and view more.



NUMEROUS NEW OPPORTUNITIES & MANY ANSWERED PRAYERS



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Judy Hatcher
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January 17, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We hope this finds you enjoying the beginning of the new calendar year. Thank you for your faithful support. Things are going well here and God has blessed us with good health.

The Lord has encouraged us during the last few months with numerous new opportunities and many answers to prayers. Here is one example: On the eve of the 29th day of December we received a lengthy text from someone we thought had brushed us off two months earlier. We had been having Bible studies with this individual and then it seemed like they were avoiding us by making excuses about not being able to schedule the next Bible study. My opinion of what had/was happening was totally wrong. We are now back to regular meetings with this lady. She has been through some trying times.

Our weeks are filled with meetings with individuals and groups. Some of these are with people who are seeking but not yet believers. Some are

with people who have recently put their faith in God. Making disciples takes time. There are 9 different meetings in 7 different locations with people from 6 different cultures. Most are in person, but some are over internet. Each of these is a different study. Most of these meetings are with Judy and me. Some involve other believers. There are also other encounters that are one-time events that open new doors.

The enabling and wisdom we need come from God. Only God can give eternal life to people. However, just as our Father used many people to prepare us for the work that He has given us, He uses us to give the Good News and prepare other disciples to serve Him in the work He is doing. It is not mass production and simply ticking steps off the chart. Every individual is different and it is not a cookie cutter production. Our example is Jesus. No two encounters between Jesus and those who needed Him described in the Scriptures are the same. He sought the Father's will and we want to do the same.

Thank you for your prayers and contribution to what God is doing here.

Serving the Savior with you,
Judy and John

FELLOWSHIP MEALS IN NORTHERN BRAZIL



"We have several new families coming to our church. The population is growing on this side of the river. What is great is that they are getting involved in the church ministries. Our fellowship meals have been wonderful. More couples are getting involved. It makes a great time for fellowship and also to talk about ministry." -Odali Barros

Save the Date! Spring Missions Conference

APRIL 12 - 13, 2024

Friday: 6:30-8:00 PM & Saturday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH | Fairborn, OH

Theme: The Preeminence of Christ

BLESSED CHRISTMAS MUSICAL & PLANS FOR 2024



Mike & Beverly
Creiglow

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Brazil 69980

January 18, 2024

Dear Brethren,

Sure hope you all had as blessed Christmas as we had. The Christmas Musical lasted 6 nights this time. We had over 1000 people every night. On Christmas night we had over 1500. Over 350 of our members were part of the effort. My daughter Crissy writes the script and produces the whole thing. She has a close crew who works with her, of course. One of the TV networks did a long in-studio interview with her. That kind of thing used to end up in my lap, but not anymore. The transition to others is happening. We had heavy rains right up to the first night. Then the Lord said, "Stop!" The rains resumed the very next day after Christmas. The very best part though was that 20 souls were saved.

We had just under a thousand people at our New Year's Eve service. Two more people were saved that night.

January is usually a slower month. We let folks rest a little before the flurry of activities of the new year kick in. All this month I am preaching from texts about the second coming of Christ. The messages have stirred Christians and there have been more folks saved, too. Two of our pastors are taking their vacations during January, so I have been more active than usual in and out of the pulpit.

We are also restarting our con-



A few of the people involved in the Christmas Musical. This is just the choirs and actors, but there are also all the people backstage and support groups who welcome visitors and handle traffic, etc.

struction cycle and even starting some new building projects. There is still much to be done on our buildings, inside and out. We are also putting in a deep well at church. There are times that city water can't keep us supplied. Water and electricity have always been a problem here in Cruzeiro do Sul. We are also doing some building at camp Salém.

Bev and I went to visit our congregation in Guajará, Amazonas last Sunday morning. We had a great time with the small group there. A few weeks ago we had to pull our missionary out. He and his wife were about to kill off what had been built up over the years. He is a 50-year old teenager who can't handle his finances and his wife walked all over him running the show at the congregation. Not a good formula for success. Pastor Pedro and I (plus wives) sat them down to give them the news. We have brought them back in to try to help them find their way for

future ministry. We shall see. Not an easy thing to do, but it is part of working with so many different people. Anyway, the few that are left are ready to dig in and get back to work. Bev and I thoroughly enjoyed our time talking with them and making plans for the coming days. They have a big brand-new building that will seat 300 people. There are only about 30 members left, but it will come back, by God's grace.

Tomorrow I'm off to the upper Moa River. We leave at 6:00AM and hope to make it all the way to the mountains before dark. Two of our missionaries are going with me as well as one of our pastors. Exciting stuff.

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

In Christ,
Mike Creiglow



The Roman Catholic bishop with Pastor Ezi. The bishop never misses the Musical. I saw him this year, but wasn't able to speak to him. Last year we talked for quite a long while. It is such a privilege to preach the Gospel to as many as will listen.

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WAYS TO PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES IN 2024

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

Save the Date!

Spring Missions Conference

APRIL 12 - 13, 2024

Friday: 6:30-8:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
Fairborn, OH

2920 Beaver Valley Road
Fairborn, OH 45324

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Church: 937-878-9992

Pastor Mark Pyles: 304-545-0603

Theme

The Preeminence of Christ



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QUOTABLE QUOTES

"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives, and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."

-Nate Saint

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

-C.T. Studd

"There is nothing worth living for, unless it is worth dying for."

-Elisabeth Elliot

"God, hold us to that which drew us first, when the Cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else."

-Amy Carmichael

"You can never lose what you have offered to Christ."

-Elisabeth Elliot

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You can do that by simply making your contribution to Baptist Faith Missions and designating it for "Pension Fund" or "Veteran Missionary Pensioners" or by anything that says "Pension." We will know what you mean, and your offerings will go directly toward honoring our **Veteran Missionaries Pensioners** who have served our Lord and us so faithfully and sacrificially.

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When you make your transaction online, you will be given the "Recurring option: Yes! Please register me for the recurring program!"

We pray and hope you will.

WAYS TO GIVE



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



Mail a check



All offerings should be addressed to:

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P.O. Box 471280
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1280**

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



BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries
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February 2024 Issue

ONLINE EDITION

PRAY & PRAISE

...IN THIS ISSUE

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► **MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW:** PRAISE GOD for saving souls at the Christmas musical! PRAY for their construction plans and new building projects. [PAGE 5]

► **JOHN MARK & JUDY HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for numerous new opportunities and many answered prayers! PRAY for those they are ministering to, that their hearts would be open and receptive to the Gospel. [PAGE 4]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** PRAISE GOD for a year of harvest for Projeto Vida in 2023! PRAY as they travel to minister to Yago and Manoela in Portugal. [PAGE 8]

**PRAY ALSO FOR OUR OTHER
FAITHFUL MISSIONARY
FAMILIES.**

**JUDSON & RAQUEL HATCHER
AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY
ROGER & JULIE TATE**

A YEAR OF HARVEST + TRAVELING TO PORTUGAL



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January 12, 2024

Dear Friends,

We are happy to report that, during the final quarter of 2023, every one of our ministries experienced growth through conversions and baptisms. The Lord has truly done great things!

SOUTHERN BRAZIL:

Our traveling evangelistic team, Projeto Vida, had the opportunity to minister in 3 different states in southern Brazil. The team of 12 missionaries presented gospel skits, shared their personal testimonies, and preached in 11 public schools. In each of these schools, many lives were changed eternally. It usually isn't possible in these venues to get a precise number of decisions for Christ because it's not permitted to give an "altar call" at the conclusion, but in the one-on-one conversations immediately following the presentations many people share how they sensed the Lord convicting them of sin and their need for Christ's salvation.

The year 2023 was definitely a harvest year for Projeto Vida. All total, there were over 2,000 public professions of faith in Christ. There were also over 40,000 people who heard the gospel proclaimed clearly through our mission efforts. We are looking forward to even greater opportunities and results in 2024.

PORTUGAL:

Our missionary couple to Portugal, Yago and Manoela Guedes, also experienced God's blessings on their mission endeavors. They have now finished their first full year

in Portugal. They have three Bible study groups who meet regularly. Although it is difficult to find a convenient location to hold services, the Lord blessed them with a conference center that allows them to rent by the hour on scheduled meeting days. The cost is reasonable, especially when compared to what it would cost to lease or buy a permanent location. Yago and Manoela are a highly motivated and dedicated couple. Portugal speaks the same language as their native Brazil, but the cultural and spiritual climate in Portugal is much different. In Brazil, a large majority of the population is openly receptive to gospel conversations or presentations, whereas in Portugal, the people are predominantly agnostic or apathetic toward biblical truth. Although the results are slower to come in, Yago and Manoela know that it is their calling to be faithful in sharing the love of Christ, both in word and in actions and leave the results to the Lord.

Charlene and I will be traveling to visit them at the end of January. I will be assisting by teaching at some of their meetings and Charlene will assist Manoela from her wealth of cross-cultural experience.

We are presently working on the itinerary for outreach among some native Indian tribes in Argentina and Paraguay that we plan to minister to in early March. If any of you are interested in accompanying our group, feel free to contact me as early as possible. We are excited about this unique experience and the privilege of making Christ known to these tribes.

Charlene and I are very grateful for your faithful prayers and support so that we may minister as the Lord guides us.

In Christ's love,
Bobby and Charlene Wacaser



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