



**PRAY
WITHOUT
CEASING!**

C
U
T
A
L
O
N
G

1. For our spiritual walk with God - our #1 priority

L

2. Praise for such good results in church #4. We recently had five families start coming and some of them are tithing

I
N

3. Open doors for evangelism in Gravatari - 240,000 pop.

E

4. The dollar has devalued 25% in the last three years. Inflation has been between 25-50% on all necessary items such as food, gas and clothing. We definitely need to watch our spending. We also need to raise more support when we are on furlough the first part of 2006. Pray for this need please

A
N
D

5. Praise for open doors in 14 public schools near new church property

P
L

6. Protection of our teens from drugs and sin; protection of us from robbers

A
C

7. Our women to continue their great job of evangelism

E

8. New missionaries to come and help us

I

9. Funds for the playground on our retreat center

N

10. Praise for jobs for our members

B

11. Praise for sixteen new converts studying for baptism

I

12. Praise for the wrestling team, which we will use for evangelism both in the public school and in the church.

B
L
E

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LATHAMS' LOG

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DRAMA TEAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We have visited Berean Baptist Church in Escanaba, Michigan, two times in the last eight years. These one day visits did not really give us a good opportunity to get to know the pastor and his wonderful family. That all changed in a special way when they treated us with a visit to our ministry domain. **Pastor Darin Kelsey** brought three of his teenagers, **Joshua, Gloria and Aarin**. **Laura Simmonds** also came.

They are very talented and willing to serve. It took only three hours to train all five of them to present three dramas. The very night they arrived we had a presentation at Jeronimo, a public school. After their three dramas they sang a few songs in English and gave their names and ages, as well as a short phrase about how they feel about Christ. Then they passed out Chick tracts. The tract we used was "The Love Story". It depicts the Gospel story starting from the arrival of the Messiah. Other tracts we have used are "Holy Joe", "The Titanic", "This Was Your Life", "Hi There!", "Somebody Goofed", and "The Trap".



Our first drama was about God giving life to two dead dolls. The dolls are enjoying life when Satan enters and changes them into fighting dolls. God then returns to repair the damage. The ending uses the verse John 10:10. The second drama is a girl who gives her heart to God, just to ask for it back to give to her new boyfriend, who quickly breaks it. She then gives her broken heart to God Who repairs it, giving it back to her. She then happily gives it back to God. The third drama depicts a drunk, a drug addict and a suicidal girl, who actually puts a plastic gun up to her temple. If the

crowd is younger than teenagers, she just looks sad and leaves the gun in the purse. A thief enters and steals the gun, watch and money. Then a Christian enters carrying a Bible. She goes to the thief first who accepts Christ. He goes to the rest, but only the last one accepts Christ. I usually give my testimony and sing a song about being changed.

As always, the tracts were well received. Up to this point in our ministry, no one has ever complained about receiving the tracts after a drama presentation. We make sure the tract is not offensive in any way. The tract does the spiritual work, even if we make mistakes during the presentations. I make a point of emphasizing this to nervous novices. The students and teachers take the tracts home and keep them for years. Because we have been doing this ministry for seven years, some have had an opportunity to receive up to nine different Chick tracts. Some have even contacted us two years later and are now faithfully attending our church services. One-third of our present congregation is a direct result of this work in the public schools.

Dr. Tom Latham, Estrada Vanus A. dos Santos, 3650, CPC-17, Bairro Santo Antonio, Gravatai, 94170-994, RGS, Brazil, S. America • Phone: 01155514843581
E-mail: drtom@terra.com.br • webmissions.org/drtomandpennylatham/
Baptist World Mission, P.O. 2149, Decatur, Ala. 35602 • Phone: (256) 353-2221





One of the benefits of being a missionary in Brazil is that we can celebrate some holidays twice. Independence Day here is September 7 and we still remember July 4. Valentines day here is June 12. **Penny** and I still remember February 14 too. This year Penny decided to share the work of the social calendar with the other two leaders of our ladies. **Isabel** was in charge of arranging all the details for our Saturday night banquet. Valentine's Day was celebrated at a local restaurant with 10 unsaved adults present. There were several games played that involved couples. The message was displayed on Power Point by our newest preaching prospect, Isabel's husband, **Paulo**. He did an excellent job. In fact, it was so impressive, I asked him to do it again in our #2 church in Restinga. As is our annual custom, I got to sing "Unchained Melody" to Penny, in English.

The 15th birthday of a girl is the "coming out party" here in Brazilian culture. Every girl gets something. If she does not want a party then she usually bargains with her dad for something else - a computer, cellular phone, etc. Ana Paula's family had to give her two parties because the workers at the downtown post office (where her mom is employed) insisted. The family definitely wanted a party in the church. Financially this was very burdensome for them. The church people decided a long time ago that no girl would be deprived of this honor because the family could not afford it. Our congregation brought the food and beverage and the family only had to purchase the cake. This is our usual plan, even for weddings. I was privileged with the honor of bringing the devotional. Over 20 of her unsaved relatives were present. They had traveled four hours from their interior city to honor her. Their experience in getting to know our church and people was a surprise. They had never seen such warmth and friendliness in any church they had ever attended. They ask me if there was a church like ours in their city. Fortunately, there is a church started by one of our missionaries. We are putting them in touch with the church and praying they will find it and attend some services. Please pray for this family and their need to know our Savior.



We have been blessed with many talented people in our #4 church. **Jerri** is one of them. He and **Rosane** were married in our church two years ago. They lived close to our house for two years and Jerri worked around our property until he was able to find permanent employment. For the last two years he has worked the night shift as an airport security guard. His two boys are on our church wrestling team. Wanting to make a difference in the lives of the kids in his neighborhood prompted him to start coaching a Saturday afternoon soccer team. A council woman for our city has promised to find uniforms for his boys. Sports is a successful way to reach the younger generation. Sixty-five percent of Brazilians are under the age of 25. Please pray for Jerri and the work with his neighborhood.



Giving Out Medals



On June 25 we had our first wrestling tournament. My team is pictured at the left. As you can see, from the photo in our December prayer letter, our team has grown quit a bit. The Secretary of Sports dropped by to congratulate us on having the first tournament in Brazil. The city even purchased all the medals. Of 14 categories, our team earned 11 first-place medals. We gave testimonies during half time. The idea was to never be half way with the Lord. Some of these boys come from homes where there is no dad present. The boy in the front row, second from the left, is only five years old. His presence on our team is due to our presentation of this sport in the public school. His sister took notice of us and brought her brother.



Getting Ready for Fun



Testimony Time