



## CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH ACTIVITIES



Public School kids

the entire group and give them my life story, which takes about seven minutes. Everyone takes home a Chick tract, and no one has ever complained about it. This is the beauty of having them on my property—I can share spiritual truths with them without fear of complaints.

I wrote over 450 “Principles of Life” but have not edited them well enough to be made into a **Missionary Devotional** for every day of the year. I need some help doing this, as well as linking a Bible verse with all 365 of the best ones. Is anyone interested in helping me do this? I am going to include one in every prayer letter. Here is the first one: **Don't Forget the Principle Part** – Penny asked why the nativity set was discounted so much. The owner said it was very cheap because it was missing a small piece. Penny discovered the “small piece” that was missing was baby Jesus. What good is a nativity set that is missing the principle part—the Savior? Elaborate decorations, Santa Claus, reindeer, and elves are of no significance if Jesus is forgotten. He is the reason for the season. It is His birthday, not ours! In 1988 I was offered the opportunity to be the first Amway dealer in Brazil. The stateside salesman said, “You could be rich. You could enlist church members to work for you. One missionary in Mexico did this, and now he is a millionaire.” Sure, I would be the chief and people



in my church would be the Indians. This sounds like a nightmare to me. It was not a temptation. We know why we came to Brazil—to evangelize the lost and establish New Testament churches. And this is why we will stay.

We have spent over \$35,000 on the grounds surrounding our house, which include a seven-man soccer field, volleyball court, two trampolines, a two-story playground, roomy bathrooms, and other sports items. We only invite the public schools to use these facilities. There are 84 schools in our city of 240,000 people. The teachers are amazed that we have done this for them, free of charge. During a visit, my goal is to have them ask, “Why are you doing this for us?” My answer is: “If I can help one child get through their teen years without using drugs, jail time, or pregnancy, I will consider this investment worthwhile, wouldn't you?” I ask only one thing from them. I want to take a picture of

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Jane's dad died seven years ago. Since then, I have been the adopted dad of all four kids, a passion I gladly accepted. In February she is getting married to a fine Christian man. They asked for my approval and blessing. She is a school teacher. Jane invited **Jean** and **Gilvana** to see our Christmas Walk-Through. The following week this young couple invited me to teach the Bible in their home. Sunday night I prayed, “If anyone does not have Christ as their Savior, I pray they will not sleep well until they do.” When I arrived at their house the following night, Jean told me he could not sleep well because he had no idea what “being born again” meant. Half way through the explanation I said, “You can be saved tonight if you want to.” Jean answered, “I am already saved.”

I was concerned, “When were you saved?” He replied, “Just ten minutes ago. I did not want to wait until you finished explaining it, in case I died of a heart attack.” This really surprised me. I have never had this experience before. Since that night, they have missed very few services and are growing quickly. It is such a pleasure to teach the Bible to someone who knows absolutely nothing! These two are spiritual sponges.



Gilvana, Gabriela, (neice) Jean



I went to six public schools advertizing our wrestling ministry. **Gilson** didn't look like a possible prospect because he worked days, studied nights, is married, and has a son. He did show up and has been practicing with us for six months. He lives only six blocks from my house. **Pricella**, his wife, goes to church with us on Thursday nights even though Gilson does not get home in time to join her. I am training him to be the coach of his own team. We recently started studying the Bible in their home. This couple accepted Christ on January 16. You should have been there to hear them pray, it was marvelous.

**Jessica** has been hounding me for months about the possibility of being baptized. We finally had to form a policy about baptizing intermediates. I always talk to the parent/parents about the child's spiritual condition. Some parents have not allowed their junior/intermediate to be baptized because they were not ready. There was still a lack of respect and obedience in the family relationship. One mother suggested I keep hammering on the principles of Ephesians 6:1-2 to obtain some permanent changes. I did this very thing at our last youth activity, and Ana Paula raised her hand in the presence of all the other teens, declaring she was going to treat her mother better. When I left her off at home I said, “Now tell your mother the decision you made.” Her mother then granted permission for her daughter to be baptized. These are the kids we have prepared and baptized. Jessica is in the front middle.

