

LATHAM'S LOG

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CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH ACTIVITIES



Our church celebrated its eighth anniversary in January. We met for four years in our living room, then we moved to a rented building. After two years, we were able to purchase five lots with 5,000 square feet of buildings. We are located only 50 yards from the bus line, which connects our entire metro area.

Promising the wrestlers a tournament once a month, our first of the season occurred on March 28. We had 70 wrestlers present. Shane was the referee, training a Brazilian to fill in later. It was exciting to give a short jodelos message to some who heard it for the first time. We have about 100 wrestlers from five teams training with us in Gravatai.



1. Keeping our hearts right with God, our #1 priority
 2. Open doors to make new contacts
 3. Enough funds to purchase a minibus—we have half of what we need
 4. Harmony among our leadership and membership
 5. Meaningful wrestling contacts at our new school
 6. Enough health to do all that is necessary
 7. Leadership who love the Lord and His work
 8. US visitors year around
 9. Safety at monthly tournaments
 10. Teens who want to enter the ministry
- Praise:
1. Offerings enough to pay a national pastor's salary
 2. Craig Muri and Jeff Scott's visit
 3. Arrival of our first great grandchild

C U T A L O N G A L I N E I N D A N D P L A C E I N B I B L E

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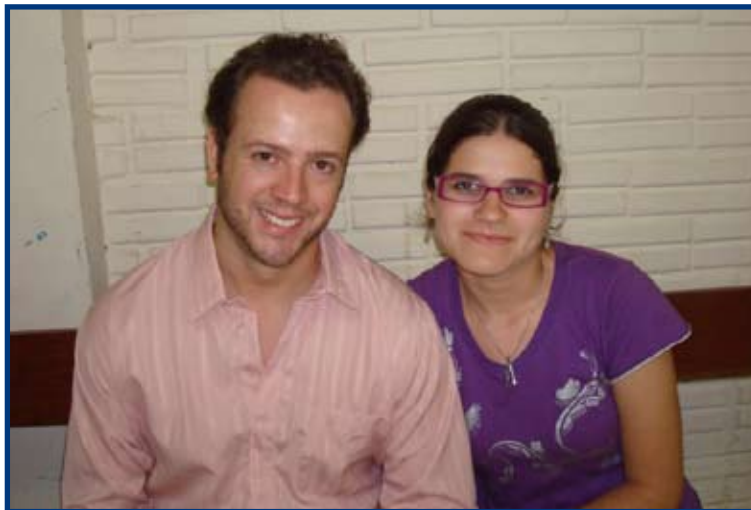


Our church supports two missionaries. **Jeremias** and **Dude** work across town in a small, growing church. Penny and I were responsible for getting these two together, married. They have two daughters who love the Lord, **Sara** and **Rute**. **Valcides**, who is an Amazon Indian, works with tribes along the Amazon River. He does all of his ministry with a boat. Both of these missionaries give regular reports to our church.

Pastor **Craig Muri** and **Jeff Scott** from the Parker's Lake Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, came for a four-day visit. We showed them a great deal of what we do, except the wrestling ministry. Their comments were interesting. They noted that our kids are happy, even though they don't have a lot of the world's possessions. They also noticed that our people sing well, even though our number is small. They commented that it appears our ministry is loving the kids and seeing their parents come to church.



Mauricio came to our church with his mother, **Rachel**. Although he is 27 years old, he is still in the youth group (we don't have a college-age class). He works at the General Motors factory in town. **Mauricio** and **Ana** are planning to get married before the end of the year. He is attending **Pastor Edison's** evangelism class and wants to serve the Lord as a layman.



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Donated Tents



Ladies Retreat



Teen Retreat

Every year we have two summer retreats. Eighty ladies met at our house for their "chocolate" retreat. Three ladies from our church accepted Christ on the last day. All three ladies have been in church services. We also had a teen retreat during the wild carnival celebration. Thirty teens came from four churches. Our goal was to challenge the teens to uphold their testimony at home, at school, on the job and in the neighborhood. Both of these retreats used the four tents that **Tom** and **Pat Sheldon** from Aurora, Illinois, purchased for us. Thank you so much, Tom and Pat. Our men's retreat is on Easter weekend.

Jose was a young man attending our church. He lost his dad at an early age and was raised by his sister. As a young man, he started disagreeing with most of my pastoral decisions. He actually called me a "JERK" in front of other church members. I went to his home and encountered an angry man looking for a fight. I told him I was giving him my 1951 Ford as a gift, because he had no way to get his family to church when it rained. I also told him to sell it as soon as possible, before it broke down, and buy a newer car. He was completely taken off guard. His ammunition was taken away. I had "poured hot coals" on his anger against me. From that day on, he treated me like a father. He told the church that no one had ever done anything like that for him.

