

SERVANTS OF CHRIST

in Brazil

Newsletter Winter 2014-15



The Rod and Ann Anderson family

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

We apologize for being so late with this newsletter. Among other things, Rodney's computer crashed and took with it his list of email contacts. Our most recent, usable backup was pre-furlough, so it doesn't include a lot of our new additions. So if you know a friend or a church member who usually gets the newsletter but doesn't get this one, please ask him/her to send us an email so we can put him back on our list.



ROOF FINISHED

The church building in Nova Araguaina is now completely roofed. We already had the main room covered with a flat, cement roof so that we could in the future build a second story. Our original plan was to cover the other room in this way also, but finances don't currently permit that, and also, we had a lot of water infiltration through the cement roof. So we decided for the time being to cover the entire building, including the part that was already roofed, with sheet roofing. This gave us a less expensive roof for the part that was still uncovered and it stopped the infiltration in the other part. In the future, when we are ready to add a second story, we can still do that.

Thank you so much to all of you who gave offerings to help us finish this project. Our next step on the building itself is to cover the bare bricks inside and out with the cement plaster we use here. Part of the exterior has already been done, so we just need to finish that and do the interior. We also need to cover the cement floor with tile to make it easier to clean (we have LOTS of mud on the floor in the rainy season). All of this will make the church building more attractive and easier to maintain.

LIVES CHANGED – A WORK IN PROGRESS

People aren't like roofs. We aren't ever completely finished this side of Heaven. But we do see God's transforming power at work. 2 recent additions to our church family are Arlete and her sister Valdine. Arlete has been a strong Christian and faithful worker in the Rodoviaria church for as long as we have known her. She recently retired from teaching school and moved to Nova Araguaina, so she placed her membership with us. She is a very welcome addition! Valdine was immersed many years ago, but has always struggled, and for a couple of years she wasn't going anywhere. She recommitted her life to Jesus and has been coming to church regularly. Pray that we will be able to find a time that fits into her work schedule to do discipleship classes, and also that she will have the courage to either marry the man she is living with or end that ungodly relationship.





As we have mentioned before, Brazilian culture is very promiscuous. At least in the part of Brazil where we live, more couples are NOT married than couples that are married. So we were delighted to be asked to be “padrinhos” (like godparents, only for couples) at the wedding of Isac and Sabrina. They have been living together for a couple of years, so their wedding day was a great day. We have known Isac for most of his life, and we are very happy with his decision to live in a godly way.

Sometimes we have been discouraged when people we have loved and taught have either drifted away from the Lord and from church, or have just not matured. So we praise God for the continued spiritual growth and maturity that He is developing in Adriano, who has been Rodney’s main “Timothy” in the Nova Araguaina church. God has helped him to truly abandon the superstitions that bound him when he practiced spiritism. For a long time after he converted he was tormented by nightmares, and because of his background in spiritism, he gave a lot of weight to these bad dreams. We prayed for him and over him many times and Rodney counseled him and studied the Bible with him. As far as we know, the nightmares have stopped completely and Adriano is living in a spiritual freedom that he never knew could exist. It is wonderful to watch him grow and blossom as a Christian man.



FAMILY NEWS

Eliot will finish at Otero Junior College in May of this year. He has done very well there, being on the President’s Honor Roll for his 4.0 grade average, and also being inducted into the students (it’s Phi rest of it). He than transfer to expensive, he in Norman. Out-would be at



National Honor Society for junior college something something – sorry I forgot the was unable to get in-state tuition, so rather Colorado School of Mines, which is VERY will be transferring to Oklahoma University of-state tuition there is about half what it School of Mines.

Cynthia will College in May as well. She has loved homesick days. She just got back from a her home to Brazil for part of her May 16 until July 23. We are looking

finish her first year at Ozark Christian being at OCC, but she has had a lot of mission trip to Mexico. We are bringing summer vacation. She will be here from forward to her visit.

Jeremy is in his 2nd year of high school (Brazil only has 3 years of high school). At the end of his first year, he took 2 different exams similar to the SAT for the practice of taking the test. The testing system is different here. It’s a straight ranking system from 1st to last. Each college has a certain number of openings for each course. So if there are 20 openings in the college of your choice, you need to score among the top 20 people taking the test to get into that college. He took the test for the college he would like to attend here in Araguaina, and he scored in 4th place! That’s



quite impressive for a not-quite sophomore. If he scores as well or better at the end of this year, he will be allowed to skip his last year of high school, which is mostly preparation for these tests anyway, and enter college. Since our kids go to private school, that would mean we could be paying for college that year instead of paying for another year of high school and THEN paying for college.

Rebecca loved her semester at Marshall Middle School in Wichita, Ks. She did very well there. But she has struggled since we came back to Brazil. She has not reintegrated well into the Brazilian school system. She is currently in 8th grade, and she really wants to do high school this time, but we are talking with Rodney and I are not willing to send her to the US to live without us at her last year or maybe the last two US. Online classes are also an option we are looking into. Please pray about this. We need godly wisdom and guidance ourselves so that we can make wise decisions on Rebecca's behalf and help her to herself.



UPCOMING EVENTS

We have several upcoming events at Nova Araguaina, including a special open-air service for all 4 of the Christian Churches here in Araguaina on April 11. That's a big thing for our small church to host, but we are praying that God will use it to open up more contacts for us in Nova Araguaina and to attract people to the church. On the 28th of this March we will be having a work day followed by a church dinner.

Please be praying that our members might become stable in their church, growing in Christ through establishing habits of Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, thanksgiving and praise to God, and encouragement and service to the church and community. Older members have developed many of these habits but newer members have almost none of them- pray for God's help to develop new lives as new creatures in Christ.

In the service of Christ Jesus our Lord,
Rod and Ann Anderson family

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