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Greetings to elders, preachers, and other interested people,



The annual men's retreat was held May 1, Labor Day in most of the world. There were 70 men. It was very helpful. João Nascimento, one of our four elders, whom I won 41 years ago, preached about caring for the family. There was a lot of great fellowship and good discussions, some in the swimming pool.



Small group preparation continues in the Agulha church in Icoaraci, 10 miles north of here. They have had small groups since January. Hoping to improve those groups, they're anxious to begin using the lessons I translated and Enderson corrected.

This morning in a planning meeting we decided to have the members do a Spiritual Growth and Development survey June 7. It will take the place of the preaching, and probably will last beyond our normal ending time. The impact of that should be stronger than most sermons. Then on June 21 we plan to form the small groups, again during the worship time. This way we can include most of the members.

I continue teaching Matthew in the Outeiro Road church, which was begun in 1954. I first preached in that church when I was here in 1957. The third chapter was the subject Wednesday.

The couple who repented of their sinful lifestyle in March is getting married this afternoon. Carol and I went with them to a notary's office to register to marry.



The other couple was married last Saturday. They had a big reception in our auditorium. A really delicious lunch was served. Here is a plate.



I've been preparing a study on the dangerous consequences of false teachings: two baptisms, "prophecy," Our Lady, saints, "revelations," Pope, and theory of evolution. I plan to distribute it after the meeting tomorrow evening. Too many people seem to think it doesn't matter if they flirt with some different kind of church that teaches those things. Many have gotten into sin as a result of believing those teachings, including the American woman who founded one of the churches based on some of those doctrines. She committed adultery more than once. But her church grows by leaps and bounds here.

Great news! The biopsy of the spot on my arm showed it to be benign. I thank God for protecting me from skin cancer. I believe he is protecting and keeping us to finish at least getting the discipleship into the churches.

Carol got what may turn out to be good news: possibly she won't need surgery to remove a cyst.

Margie has begun to speak a little English. She mixes English and Portuguese. She understands everything we say to her in English, and replies in Portuguese. She loves for me to mark an X on her hands with my marking pen.



Thursday I turned in my defense against the electric company's allegation that I owe them nearly \$3000 for a clandestine hookup which I didn't have. They claim to have a photograph of it. I don't have any idea how that came about.

They don't seem to feel any obligation to keep the electricity on, and last month burned out a lot of our light bulbs by letting two wires touch out in the street.



Marcelo has begun preparation with me for taking the small group discipleship 90 miles down the road to Irituia. Lúcio, who leads the church, wants to begin it. Marcelo goes frequently to see his girlfriend, Paula, Lúcio's daughter. He's our best preacher, and teaches homiletics (preaching) in the Cidade Nova church once a month.

Because of the roads and streets the front end of our car had to be rebuilt last week. It cost over \$1000.

Wouldn't it be rather crazy to retire? What for? The apostle Paul didn't retire. We don't have any indication in Scripture of God's servants retiring. I can do about as much as I could 30 years ago, and the opportunities keep coming up to extend the Kingdom of God, such as teaching in the Outeiro Road church and beginning the small group discipleship in the Cidade Nova and Agulha churches. I take my turn every five or six weeks preaching in the Cidade Nova church. Last Sunday I preached in the Agulha church. I don't criticize anyone for retiring, and there are some good reasons to do so. Some day we won't be here anymore; we know that. But for the time being we can be useful in God's Kingdom.

We thank God at least every day for the support that many of you send. That enables us to buy groceries and gasoline and keep up the car, such as described above. By this monthly report you can know a lot of what we are involved in doing.

In Christ,  
David

Prayer items:

1. Formation of small groups in the Cidade Nova church in June
2. Thanks for good news of benign spot on my arm
3. God's guidance in formation of small groups for discipleship
4. Health and strength for getting the discipleship going in the churches
5. God's blessing for people who have returned to the Lord
6. Accusation from the electric company