

# Redeeming Recife

“THAT WE MAY BECOME FELLOW WORKERS FOR THE TRUTH” – 3 JOHN 8<sup>B</sup>

## REMEMBERING THE CREATOR



David McKinney from Joao Pessoa (100 miles North) taught on “Life before Death”.



New Christians grew in faith as they accepted more responsibility in their service to God.



Fruit from this effort was evidence as these three young women decided to “put on Christ” being baptized by Antonio (one of our elders).

As we who have “been there and done that” know, a critical age in growing up is adolescence when decisions are made and friendships formed that will set the course of life into adulthood. Many of the church’s young people are lost to the world at this time. Aimed at helping young people prepare for this transition is the ministry with teens. The biggest single event on their calendar is the **Teen Camp**, now in its eight year.

The committee that spent weeks preparing for this year’s five-day event was composed of Aureni, our youngest, Jonathan; the two remaining AIM Team member Larissa and Matthew; and Daniel (who left for Lubbock, TX as soon as it was over to join AIM). All told there were fifty participating in this faith-maturing event, including three cooks, five monitors, twenty-two guys, eighteen girls, one organizer (Aureni) and one “Go-For” (*you know who*).

The theme was on “Life before Death” with good lessons classes taught by David McKinney from Joao Pessoa and Dennis Downing from Sao Lorenzo, among others.

In spite of it being in the heart of the raining season, God gave us good weather with little rain except for the last night when we had a bonfire. About midnight, just after we got chairs set up and all settled around it, a heavy rain came that sent us all scampering indoors and to bed earlier than planned.

The food also was great. Aureni handed the kitchen responsibilities over to a new Christian named Lucia (next to Aureni in the photo). She did a great job and loved it so much she wants to do it from now on.

About a third of the teens that came were friends of the church members. This gave an opportunity to share their faith. As of this writing, **six** baptisms have resulted from Bible studies set up with these.

We praise God for this great victory! <>

## ENTERTAINING ANGELS



Joy and John (background) got to visit the orphanage and spend time with the children to whom the church ministers.



John and Joy spent time in the church ministry to street people.



(From left) My sister Pam, me, my brother Tim, Jonathan, Tim's daughter Rachel, Aureni and Pam's daughter Breanna.



My family got to visit a school for underprivileged children.

The last few months we have been blessed with more brethren visiting from the States than ever. Jonathan mentioned in his July mission report (which I sent you) that we hosted a group of eighteen from AIM team member Larissa's church in Escondido, CA. They held a VBS for the children from a nearby orphanage as well as helped us with some work on the building. Keeping tract of so many was a very tiring but rewarding time and much good was done.

A few days after they left John and Joy Foster came for a two-week visit. John is a preacher at the Deep River church of Christ in High Point, NC where my brother serves as a deacon. My brother was to come with them but had to cancel at the last minute. While he was here, John preached at the Boa Vista (downtown) church, and visited five other congregations in the city. He taught one of the Aspiring Elders' meetings, which had forty present representing ten congregations in Greater Recife. They were able to spend some time with the children at the orphanage as well as the school for underprivileged children where the AIMers teach English. They also got to accompany the saints distributing food to people on the street, along with a message of God's love. Every message John taught was very good and I learned something.

Though my brother could not come with the Fosters, he was able to come a few weeks later with my sister and each brought a daughter (their spouses decided to sit this one out). Tim brought his only child Rachel, 17. Pam brought her youngest (of three) Breanna, 15. [I only have these two siblings.]

It was my sister's first trip here and my brother's second (his first was in 1982). They could only stay a week this time but promised to come again next year. Due to the shortness of their visit most of our time together was spent doing family activities. However, Tim did teach a devotional at church the Wednesday night he was here. Rachel and Breanna had an opportunity to help Jonathan with the two English Bible Talk classes he taught last semester in the SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE.

Their visit was very special in that I was finally able to show my family (all are church members) what I have been doing these years we have been apart. <>

## CAPACITATING THOSE GOD CALLS



Our Jonathan, 17 misses his coworkers Daniel, 19, (center) who entered the AIM program in Lubbock, TX last month and Matthew, 24, who left at the same time to study at ACU.

I like the modern proverb “God does not call the capable, but capacitates those He calls!” When Aureni and I accepted the responsibility to be the field coordinators for an AIM team of four young people, we did not know what we were getting into. It took a lot more of our time and effort than we had imagined. However, after two years the harvest of ‘fruit’ from it has proven to be much greater than we ever hoped.

Among this fruit is the spiritual growth we have seen in our youngest, **Jonathan**, 17. He is now leading a home Bible study and teaching two English Bible Talk courses at the SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE. Another is a young man named **Daniel**, 19, who was lead to Christ by **Matthew Hale**. After completing his two years here, Matthew left us last month to finish his education at ACU (he is the third of the AIM team to leave, now we just have Larissa). On his way, he dropped Daniel off in Lubbock to begin the AIM program. What a blessing God gives us, when we seek to serve others!



Chris, Teresa and Sara, 4, Boyce joined us in June to begin work here. They are now working on their language studies.

Though God has called the AIM team to other fields in His service (and we sure miss them here) He has not forgotten us. Eighteen years ago, Teresa Adcock was a young apprentice church-worker here, under the oversight of Joe and Linda McKinney. She left Recife but Recife never left her. In those intervening years, she has married a missionary named Chris Boyce (they have served in Inner-City ministries and in Africa) and together they have a beautiful daughter named Sara, 4.



Ongoing training includes the Aspiring Elders’ meetings. Here John Foster (right) teaches a group with ten area congregations represented.

Supported by the Cloverdale church of Christ in Searcy, AK, they moved to Recife in June to begin work with the Boa Vista (downtown) congregation. They now have all their documentation complete; are settled into a nice apartment; have a car; and Sara has started attending the same school where Jonathan goes. They are in intensive Portuguese language studies. They plan to work the first two years under the guidance of Boa Vista’s elders until they learn the ropes of spreading the Gospel in Brazil. After that, they plan to be a part of planting a new congregation in a suburb of Metropolitan Recife.



Periodic capacitating includes seminars, like this men’s seminar at the Boa Vista church. The theme was “Being God’s Warrior”.

What a wonderful God we serve Who supplies our every need! <>

# BRINGING INTO A LIFE WITH JESUS



Here is a photo of my current "Message of the Bible" class in the School of the Bible. I also teach an English Bible Talk course.

Our great commission of bringing people into a life with Jesus is a joint task of God, His Word and our lives. One of the means that has proven effective in this culture is the **SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE** approach. Bible courses offered to the public in a school-type setting serve as a bridge between the community and the church. In the eight-week semester that just ended, I taught two courses. One was on the message of the Bible, a study of God's scheme of redemption. The other was an advanced-level English Bible Talk where we studied select parables from Luke.



Here Jonathan speaks at a SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE cookout last week.

While Brazil is the world's largest Portuguese speaking nation, the need here to speak the *de-facto* universal language (English) continues to grow. Following the example of the "Let's Start Talking" ministry, the School of the Bible offers courses on the Bible in English. Not only are these courses the largest, they usually have a higher percentage of students who are not already affiliated with a religion group. Jonathan, with the help of Larissa (our last remaining AIM team member), taught two beginner-level English Bible Talk courses this past semester. When Larissa leaves in two months, Jonathan will be teaching these on his own.



Aureni talks to a woman who lives on the street with two children.

Besides the SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE, other ministries seek to bring people into contact with Jesus. One of these is **home Bible study groups**. Here homes are open for members to invite their friends to study God's Word every week. Jonathan is leading one on Thursday nights for young people his age.

Another is the **ministry to people who live on the street**. Every Wednesday night after the midweek prayer meeting a large group leave the downtown church building and fan out in different directions in smaller groups to distribute food and drink and talk to the people sleeping on the street (most of whom are addicted to drugs) about the Hope Jesus brings.



Read about Joshua's mission trip to Africa at [www.joshuapruitt.com](http://www.joshuapruitt.com)

*"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* – Jesus (John 10:10b) <>



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