

InTouch

MAGAZINE

Autumn 2023



Acre
International

Dates for Your Diary



Zoom Prayer Meeting:

1st Monday of each month at 8pm via Zoom
Meeting ID: 435 081 0967
Code: 150967

9-14th Oct: Fátima Mission Team

Fátima, Portugal

27th October: Praise Night

Magheragall Methodist Church

13-16th November: Autumn Break in the Killyhevlin

Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen
£265 per person sharing
Single room £75 supplement

17th November: Mid-Ulster Conference with Barry & Raquel

7:30pm, Moneymore Congregational Church

2nd December: Christmas Praise Night

7:30pm
Faith Mission Centre, Portadown
131 Mahon Road, Portadown

Contact Details

Acre Gospel Mission
52A Halfpenny Gate Road, Moira, Co. Armagh, BT67 OHP
+44 7710 506939

NI Charity Number: NIC108390

If you would like to book us for a meeting please get in touch either by phone or by sending an email to office@acregospelmission.org

President's Thought for the day



"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal"

Matthew 6:20

I love the story of John Ruscus who put \$300 in the collection plate at church. As he did so he said "I'll see you in heaven." The people around him quietly whispered, "Old John is getting senile. He says he'll see his money in heaven. He may see God over there but certainly won't need his money."

This story reminds me of the words of the Lord Jesus, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 6:20).

Another side of that story reminds me of Geraldo in Labrea. Because of Leprosy Geraldo was not able to attend church so we conducted meetings at his simple forest home on Sunday afternoons.

One day, clutching his Bible to his chest by the stumps of his hands, he said, "Pastor Victor, when you go to your country will you please thank the people who sent the missionaries to us, the people who sent Bibles so we could read the Word of God, the people who prayed for us and sent money to buy medicines for me. Please tell them I'll never see them here on earth, but one day in the Tabernacles of glory I'll greet them with a big Brazilian hug."

We are thankful for all the supporters of Acre International and are sure they are "laying up treasure in heaven".

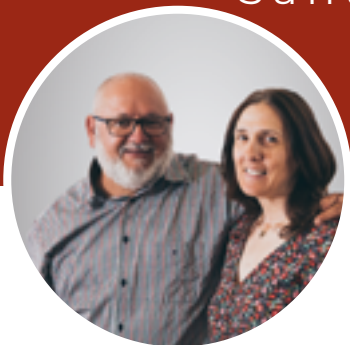
Mission Change of Address

52A Halfpenny Gate Road,
Moira,
Co. Armagh
BT67 OHP



Santo Andre, Portugal

Aroldo & Emmanuelle Areas



For many months now, as we have already mentioned before, many Brazilians are coming with their families to Portugal to find a better life. Some are Christians or from a Christian background and they have started to attend Christian churches. Our wee church is no exception and many Brazilian families have been with us, attending the church services for over a year now on a regular basis.

Our church building, which is quite big, is now becoming a bit small, especially when it comes to separating the children according to the different age groups for the Sunday School classes. So we have started a project to expand the church building (using the roof space) but this project requires permission from the city council.

So we decided to start with the building of two bathrooms downstairs (a project that did not require permission). These two bathrooms were also built for another purpose: having more toilets but especially to have showering facilities (that we did not have) when Camp time comes (Last year, we only had one toilet for around forty people!).

These new facilities will also be very useful when groups from Northern Ireland come for the Fátima Outreach work, or when guest speakers come and stay with us for a long weekend. So this year, praise the Lord, for the Camp in August, we now have three bathrooms ready.

It took us three months of intense building work to have them ready. We praise the Lord for the help of some church members who came and helped with painting and electric work. The rest of the building work was mainly achieved by the three of us: Aroldo, Emmanuelle and Rosalina (a 79 year old lady!).



The second part of the project will be to put a permanent roof over the bathrooms and then a roof over the roof space. This will allow us to have two more rooms for the Sunday school classes but these two extra rooms will also be used as dormitories during camp time or guest rooms for visitors and outreach groups.



We thank you all so very much for your prayers and support during these months of building work. We praise the Lord for giving us strength and wisdom to do this work. May this project and the future ones be for His glory and honour, to serve Him and serve others here in Santo André.

We are going to have our Summer Camp in two weeks' time DV. We are expecting around thirty people. May our Lord bless this time of fellowship and teaching with health, strength and wisdom among the leaders and campers.



Santo André is a city in the municipality of Santiago do Cacém. It was built in the 1980s to serve the region's oil industry.

It is one of the youngest cities in the world and is situated close to the Atlantic Ocean.

The population in 2011 was 10,647.



Please pray:

- For continued growth in the church.
- For the building work that is continuing.
- For the summer camp.

Beja, Portugal

Jander & Rebecca Fernandes



Jander and Rebecca Joia, and their little daughter Mariana recently moved from Manaus, Brazil, to the town of Beja, Portugal, to begin serving the Lord alongside the Evangelical Church in Beja. We thank God that they have been able to settle into the new work well and they send this report:

Since moving to Portugal, the Lord has been good to us, and our hearts are more encouraged as each day passes by. We have experienced the peace of God guiding us and giving us strength to continue in this ministry. Rebecca's pregnancy continues well, and we thank God that at the last appointment with the doctor, he could not see any further problems, and the pregnancy is continuing normally.

Mariana, has also been developing steadily each day, and has already made some friends with the other children in the church. On 1st July 2023 we started a new children's work in the church called Discobridores da Bíblia, or in English, Bible Discoverers, and 5 children came along. We know that the ground here is hard, and the work is tough, and the customs and culture of the Portuguese



people is rooted deep in their hearts, but we believe that God will do the work, and He will save. Our duty is to remain faithful and to persevere, knowing that our work is not in vain.

Before the beginning of this new work, we did some training in the area of child evangelism, for ourselves and others who would be helping us. We gained some insight into the work of evangelism within a professing Catholic country, and also the regulations around working with children. This training was carried out by a lady called Jovanka, from CEF Portugal.

We chose the lesson series on Samuel to begin our Bible Club, where we can talk about the plan of salvation using the Wordless Book. We could see the interest and the curiosity from the children, and their attentiveness to each

lesson. To encourage a little excitement we organised an award ceremony with prizes, some games and activities, and at the end, a small snack.

We know that the challenges are many, not only from the enemy himself, but also in having the necessary workers to support and participate in this work. As we've already mentioned previously, unlike the Brazilian church, we find cultural difficulties rooted within the hearts of the Portuguese people. The joy of participating in the work of the church, of giving a little of your time to the service of your Saviour in gratitude, even on the weekend, a heart willing to contribute to the work, is far from being a reality in many of the Portuguese believers. We need people and resources to carry the work forward, and we know that our King will supply each of our needs.

So thank you to each of you who pray for us, and continue to pray for help, strength and wisdom to carry out this work. Pray also for the possibility to do some outreach among the travelling community. They are more open to listen to the gospel message, but with this also comes certain challenges. We value your prayers, and God bless.



Beja is a city and a municipality in the Alentejo region, Portugal. Situated on a 277-metre (909 ft) hill, commanding a strategic position over the vast plains of the Baixo Alentejo.

The population in 2011 was 35,854.



Please pray:

- For Rebecca's pregnancy, that it would continue without any issues.
- For the children's series they are doing on Samuel.
- For Jander and Rebecca as they continue to adapt to living in a different country.



Report from Brazil

Keith Lindsay

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

Psalms 126 v 3

After a nine hour flight we finally arrived from Lisbon to the city of Natal in North East Brazil. Tired after the journey, Mark Loney, Peter Moore and myself were greeted with a warm Brazilian welcome from Pastor Iran, field leader of the work in Rio Grande Do Norte. Another two hour car journey and we arrived at our accommodation in the town of Santa Cruz.



The next number of days were extremely busy with travelling many hours over pot holed roads to visit the various Pastors and their congregations. What a blessing to share in meetings and meet many of the people who we have been praying for. What an encouragement to see the hand of God at work in lives.

The new church build in São José was officially opened during our visit. The men were still plastering the front of the building in the afternoon and over 100 packed into the new church for the opening service at night. There were still no windows, no doors, concrete floors but that didn't stop the people giving thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness.

On the Saturday morning, all of the eighteen mission families travelled to Serra Do Doutor for the Mission get together. Pastor Diego and Pastor Lucas and their families drove over 500km to be there. What a blessing to hear what God is doing in the various works and encouraging to sense the presence of God and the unity amongst the workers. The Lord hath done great things!



The following week we flew over 3000 miles to Manaus in the Amazon. Again, a number of friends came to the airport to greet us. Home for us in Manaus is with the De Souza family at the IBEE schools. Nothing was a bother as we were taken from meeting to meeting in several churches.

It was also a blessing to visit in Pastor Poderoso's church, visit Raimundo Nonato in the market, speak at the Bairro Novo Children's Club, teach English in the Ibee School and both Mark & myself spoke at the Missionary Convention in Hebron Church along with Pastor César, a missionary in Maues. Opportunity was also given to have a mission reunion of the workers in Manaus at Pastor José & Eurides home one afternoon. What a blessing again to hear what God is doing in the city of Manaus.



One of the highlights for us was seeing God at work in lives. On the Sunday night of the missionary Convention, a young woman clearly sought the Lord as Saviour. We also had the joy of speaking with César & Sulamita and appointing César to work along side Pastor José. César will travel to some of the interior towns and to the North East along with Pastor José in the New Year. Please pray for César & Sulamita as they take on this new role within the mission.



We flew home again with full hearts, giving thanks to the Lord for all of His many blessings... surely as a mission, we can say, "The Lord hath done great things for us".

Thank you for your prayers for our trip. If you would like to hear more, please invite us to come along to your church or fellowship in the months ahead.



Pau Brasil, Brazil Pastor Abraão

On 15th June 2023, the new church building known as the Batista Boas Novas, (or Good News Baptist Church), was officially opened to the glory of God, in the town of São José do Mipibu, in an area of the town known as Pau Brasil. Keith Lindsay, Mark Loney and Peter Moore had the privilege of being present at this meeting, when they visited the area during the month of June 2023. It has taken a long time to see this church building come to fruition, and even though it is now opened, it still requires a lot of work to see it completely finished. Pastor Abraão along with his wife Pricilla and their 2 children are working with this congregation, and he has written this summary of the work and a brief history of how it all began.



The vision to plant a church all began with the parents of a lady called Marina. They, along with some other Christians in São José do Mipibu had a desire to see a church planted there, and Marina's father wanted to convert a part of his land into a place where the word of God could be preached. However, his age prevented him from doing the work and he wasn't able to see this desire come to pass.

The years went by and this desire passed from father to daughter. Marina was now living in Santa Rita, Paraíba, and her parents home, was sitting empty. She spoke with us concerning the vision to see the house turned into a church, but also how she wanted to donate a portion of the land so that a proper church building could be built. After speaking with Marina about this, we took the news back to Pastor Junior, who works in the neighbouring church on Nísia Floresta, and of course he was overjoyed to hear about this wonderful gift. We immediately started work on the old house to turn it into a place we could preach the gospel, and also considered how we could use the land for a church in the future.

The area, Pau Brasil, is within São José do Mipibu.

Under the leadership of Pastor Edmilson, services began in the old house that was converted into a meeting house on Saturday evenings. At this stage I was still in Bible College and had not yet taken up the work in the area. I was able however to give help whenever needed. For a long time the services were held at 4:00 pm on Saturday afternoons, with many of the believers from Nísia Floresta coming to support the work, along with some who attended from the local area.

In 2018 I graduated from the Bible College and began working as the assistant Pastor at the Nísia Floresta church, and also continued to give help to the work at Pau Brasil, alongside Pastors Edmilson and Junior. After some time we then began a children's work on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, and the Saturday meetings were moved to a Thursday night at 7:00 pm. After a period of time the old house was no longer big enough to accommodate the numbers of people attending the services, and so we had to begin to think about the construction of a new church building.

Before construction work could begin, we first had to determine how much land that our sister Marina had actually given towards the work. She had a number of nephews who were causing problems relating to the legal ownership of the ground. Faced with this battle, we had to officially mark out the boundaries of the land and build a perimeter wall to mark out our exact area. With the financial help of many brothers and sisters in the area, and from MEA (the Brazilian end of the

mission), we were able to raise the walls needed to enclose the land. After this job was complete we could then turn our full attention to the construction of the church building itself. We were blessed to have a man called Kleber in the church at Nísia, an engineer, who took on the responsibility for the construction of the new church.

We were excited to see the work of the Lord going forward, but then the Covid pandemic arrived, and all of our church buildings had to close down. We were however able to continue with the beginnings of the construction work of the new building. We then had to wait for a period of about 1 year and 2 months for the company to deliver the materials we required for the roof. However, we knew that it was all in God's perfect timing.

After the pandemic, we were able to return to our Thursday meetings, which we held outside the old house in the open air, as the house was filled with various materials from the construction work.



Unfortunately, when it rained, we had to cancel the meeting, and so we really prayed that the roof would be finished soon. When the day finally arrived and the roof structures were fitted, we were overjoyed as we knew that the rain would no longer stop us from coming together to praise the Lord. Once we had the roof beams in place, we could fit the roof, and from then on our meetings were held inside the building, protected from the rain.

We were delighted to hear of the possibility of a visit from some of the Acre mission representatives, which was planned for June 2023, and this gave us the idea and the drive to have the building completely finished for that date, so that we could have the official opening whilst they were here.

The date was set for 15th June 2023, and a lot of work was undertaken in order to get the building ready for opening. And we thank God we were able to do it, with a lot of help both physically and

financially from various brothers and sisters in Christ. We were filled with joy to see the church filled to capacity and to have the visitors from Northern Ireland with us on this special night.

This church stands to the glory of our God in this place, to be a light and witness in this local area. We are so thankful to God that He planted this vision into the minds of Marina and her family all those years ago. Just recently, our sister Marina was able to be with us in the new church and to see the work for herself. What a special night it was for her to see this vision now become a reality. God bless each of you who pray for us and support us in this work in any way, your work and labour for the Lord has been a great help to us here in this place



Meet the missionary:



Name: Barry Henry

Date of Birth: 10.06.1976

Place of Birth: Mullingar,
The Republic of Ireland

Serving in: Vale Judeu, Portugal



Hello

My name is Barry and I was born in a town called Mullingar in county Westmeath in the south of Ireland.



I made a decision to follow Jesus when I was 16 and was baptised in the same year, but I think God only really started working in my life when I met my wife Raquel (who is Portuguese) in 1995 and I came to Portugal at 20 in 1996. It was in Portugal, that God became real, and I really understood the Gospel for the first time.

I became a missionary in 2013 after God challenged me and guided me into that position, and who can argue with God? I was a teacher in a school, and my pastor asked me if I would consider being a pastor and I said no. This was a conversation I had for a year, and then in 2012, God changed our hearts even though I thought that I would be a teacher for the rest of my life. Acre Gospel Mission, accepted us in 2012 and we moved to the south of Portugal in 2013.

As for God, His way is perfect:

The word of the Lord is proven:

He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Psalms 83:30



In Portugal I am working alongside other missionaries for the International Church of the Algarve. I am the pastor of the Portuguese speaking part of the church "Igreja Evangélica Internacional".

I'm involved in...



Discipling



Music



Building relationships



The Algarve is a beautiful region in the very south of Portugal and I love everything about Portugal, the weather, the people, and the food even though in the beginning, learning the language was difficult.



My favourite Portuguese food is Arroz de Marisco or in English "Seafood rice".

Homesick? I don't miss anything really, but it is nice to see a lot of green when I go there to visit family.



There are a lot of stories to tell from the mission field, but there is a recent one that was very memorable.

A group of young people were going to get baptised on the beach and during the Sunday service before the baptism, I preached about why we baptise and what it means to be baptised. At the end of the service, there was a young man at the top of the stairs who had given his life to the Lord a few weeks previously and I was discipling him. He opened his arms and asked, "I believe that Jesus is my Saviour, and that He died for me, and I am His, what is to stop me from being baptised?" He was baptised with the young group the following week. That was an amazing moment!

My vision

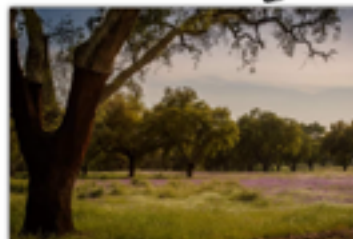
I pray that the Gospel changes lives that will be used to see more people hear and believe in the Gospel of Jesus.

Thank you
for all your prayers!



Did you know?

Every year billions of bottles of wine, cooking oil, and other liquids are sealed with corks. Corks are made from the bark of a type of oak tree called the cork oak.



The Cork tree covers about 8 percent of the total area of Portugal and makes up 28 percent of its forests. Portugal produces about half the world output of commercial cork.

The cork oak usually grows to be about 60 feet (18 meters) tall. Its wide-spreading branches give it a shape like an umbrella. Its narrow leaves are dark green and glossy.



The bark of the cork oak grows in two layers. The thick outer layer is the cork. Tiny bubbles of air trapped between the cells of the cork make it spongy. After cork is removed from the tree, a new layer forms over a period of years.



In the summer, workers cut slabs of the outer layer of bark from the tree. The slabs are stacked to dry...



... and then boiled in water to remove any tree sap. Boiling also softens the cork, which makes it easy to press flat.



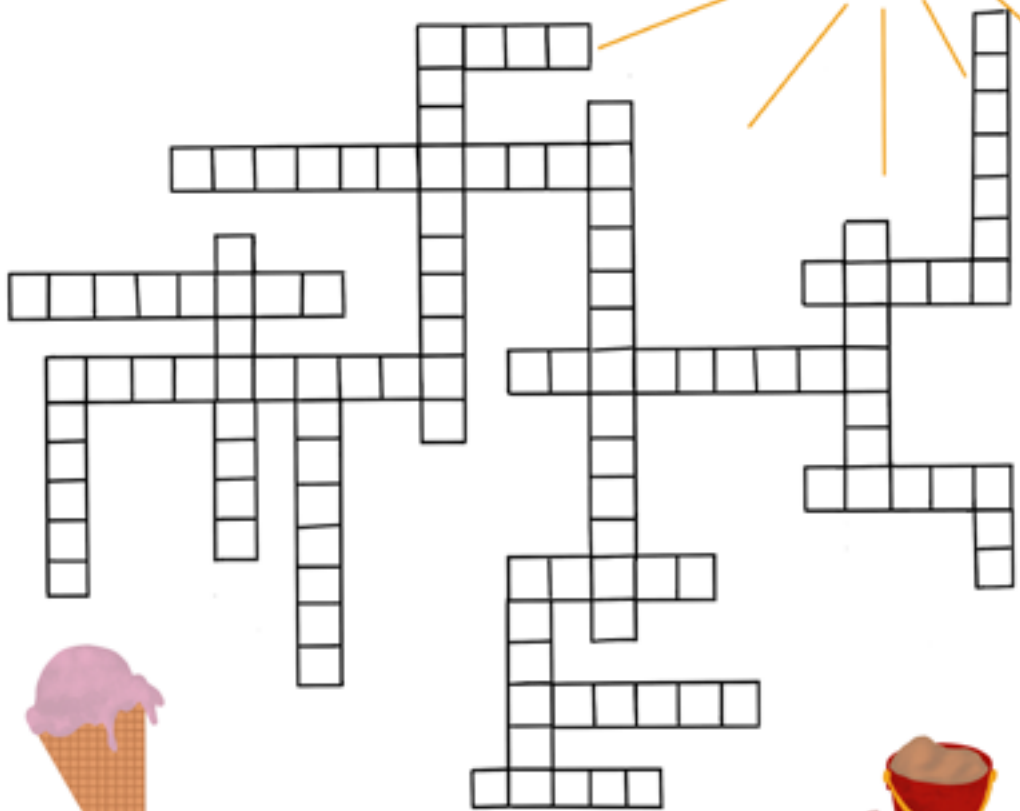
The flattened cork can be cut into many shapes. It can also be ground into very small pieces and then mixed with glue and shaped to make various products. Cork is useful as a stopper for bottles because liquids cannot pass through it. Cork is also a natural insulating material. It can be used to keep a house warm or to absorb sound. Because cork floats, it is used to make life preservers and buoys. Cork is also soft and springy, making it good for shoe soles. It is also used to make bulletin boards.



Shoes and bags made from cork leather



Portugal Summer Fill -In Puzzle



- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 3 Letter Words
Hot | 5 Letter Words
Shade
Beach
Waves
Sunny | 6 Letter Words
Sunset
Summer
Siesta | 8 Letter Words
Barbecue
Icecream
Swimming | 10 Letter Words
Sandcastle
Sunglasses | 13 Letter Words
AtlanticOcean |
| 4 Letter Words
Sand | | 7 Letter Words
Holiday
Outside | 9 Letter Words
Flipflops | 11 Letter Words
BathingSuit | |

Acre
International

PRAISE NIGHT

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER

FEATURING:

True Country
Keith & Karen Lindsay
& others.

Entrance | 7:30 PM

Magheragall Methodist Church
Glenavy Road
Lisburn BT28 3UT

FREE ADMISSION

WE INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING OF

Christmas Praise

2nd of December 2023 @7.30 pm

FEATURING:

TRUE COUNTRY
TAMLAGHTMORE SILVER BAND

Faith Mission Centre, Mahon Road, Portadown

Manaus, Brazil

César & Sulamita Rocha



First of all, I want to thank you for your continued support in prayer for the children's work at Bairro Novo, in Manaus. As you will know from previous reports, this children's work was started by the late Fred Orr, almost 23 years ago now, and still continues on to the present day.

Every Sunday afternoon, we take the gospel to the boys and girls, and in fact to the teenagers and adults also, those who are the family members of the children, as often times they will join the meeting, or will stand outside the door, and can hear the bible lessons being taught.

This June, we had the privilege to welcome back Keith Lindsay, along with Mark Loney and Peter Moore, who were in Brazil visiting the various ministries. Keith brought a wonderful missionary lesson on the story of Madugu to the children, with the help of Mark translating.



During this visit we were also asked to consider the possibility of joining the work of MEA here in Brazil (MEA is the work of Acre International in Brazil), with the view to working alongside Pastor José Carlos (current director for MEA), to assist and help the workers of the mission here in Brazil. Through the messages of faith, encouragement and challenge during the three days of missionary conference in the Hebrom church here in Manaus, God confirmed to us that He was calling us into this new work for Him.

We are honoured to be able to be a part of this great missionary organisation, which since its beginnings has seen its workers serve the Lord with sincerity and fervour. We are conscious of the great responsibility and challenge that this role brings, and the confidence that has been placed in us, but we know it is the Holy Spirit who calls, equips, guides and maintains the mission. We ask for your prayers as we will, God willing, make visits to the missionaries in the North East, Acre, and Amazonas. Do also pray on for the children's work in Bairro Novo that God would save many more boys and girls in that area of Manaus.



As you pray for us, we also pray for you, and we thank you for your support for us here in Brazil. We have this confidence that God is with us every day (Matthew 28:18-20)



Manaus is the capital, and the largest city of the Brazilian state of Amazonas. It is the seventh largest city in Brazil with an estimated population in 2020 of 2,219,580.

Manaus is located in the centre of the world's largest rainforest and was known as the HSeart of the Amazon.



Please pray:

- For the children's work at Bairro Novo, that it would continue to be a blessing to the children of the local area.
- For César & Sulimita as they take on their new role working alongside Pastor José Carlos.
-

Feijó, Brazil

Pastor Ageu



Pastor Ageu works in a town called Feijó, a little town in the interior of the state of Acre. In a recent magazine report, Ageu spoke about the work he does among the indigenous people groups within the surrounding areas, namely with the Shanenawás and Kaxinawás people groups. Ageu travels to these tribes regularly and shares the gospel with them, some have trusted the Lord and the hope is to one day establish a church there.



Just recently, he had the opportunity to go on a missionary trip along the river Envira, and was able to stop and share the gospel with many different communities along the way.

Two of the tribes that he met there are known as the Ashaninka people, and the Mandejar people. Upon arrival there it seemed like a different world, with different cultural practices and a different way of living, but still having the same need of hearing the gospel message.



They do not know about the one true and living God, and the challenge was to know how best to tell them, as they do not speak the Portuguese language. They were able to speak with the people through a translator, and they were able to share with them about the gospel.

This was an amazing opportunity to reach out to the people who live within the Amazon forest, native people who have many spiritual and ritualistic customs of their own, but yet still lost without the true and living Saviour. We pray for Pastor Ageu that he will know wisdom and help as he continues to reach out to these different groups of people, and that they would understand the message of the gospel, and respond to it, and begin to live for God.



Feijó is a municipality in the state of Acre in the Northwest Region of Brazil.

The region contains 231,555 hectares of forest, and has a population of 34,884.

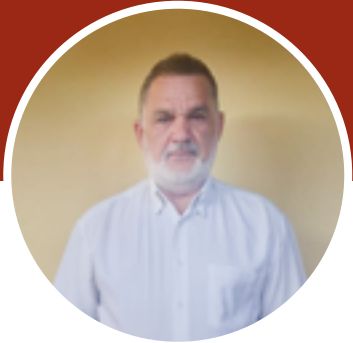


Please pray:

- For the work in among the indigenous people.
- That Pastor Ageu would have the wisdom and help he needs in reaching out to the different people groups.

Sena Madureira, Brazil

Pastor Plinio



Hello dear friends in Christ, greetings to you all. I would like to share with you about how I came to know the Lord as my personal Saviour. I accepted the Lord as my Saviour in the town of Canutama, in the State of Amazonas, back in the year 1972, through the ministry of Paul and Reta Mayner. Reta was involved with the children's work, which was held on Saturday afternoon. My sister, Marlene and I, along with various other children, went to these children's meetings, and we sat and listened to the various lessons and Bible stories being taught by Reta. And so it was at one of these meetings that I gave my life to Christ. I remember that Reta prayed with me and gave me guidance through the scriptures, and for me, it was a very special day in my life. I am so grateful to our Heavenly Father that he sent Paul and Reta to us at Canutama, to bring to us the great gospel message. My mother, now at home with the Lord in heaven, also accepted the Saviour through the ministry of Paul and Reta Mayner.



In 1984, I went to Bible College in Manaus, and when I finished my studies in June 1986, I went to work in the town of Feijó, at the church there. After this I then went to work in the church at Campo Redondo in the NorthEast of Brazil, in the State of Rio Grande de Norte, and then on to the church at Manoel Urbano, where we built a new church and manse.

Following this we then went back to the Acre, to the town of Bôca do Acre, where I worked alongside a Pastor called Pedro Morais. From Bôca do Acre we then went to Sena Madureira. In Feijó, Campo Redondo and Manoel Urbano, I worked as the Pastor of the churches in those towns. In Bôca do Acre and now here in Sena Madureira, I was, and am assisting the Pastors in the church. I give thanks firstly to God, and also to the Acre Gospel Mission, for sustaining us here in this work down through the years. I also give thanks for the time that my wife was given to be with me and help me, and also for our children.

I have been here now in Sena Madureira almost 18 years, assisting with the work of the Lord in this place. Alongside the main church in Sena Madureira, I also help out with the with the church plant in the rural zone, I'm also involved in preaching on the local radio programme, in the visitation of the various brothers and sisters connected to the churches, and also in evangelism and witnessing to those who have not yet accepted Christ as their Saviour. My desire and aim here is to help in whatever way necessary, for the glory and honour of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you all for your prayers and support, it is much appreciated



Sena Madureira is a municipality in the state of Acre in the Northwest Region of Brazil and is the largest municipality in the state.

The temperature is around 26°C and upper 90% humidity all year round.



Please pray:

- For the church in Sena Madureira.
- For the church plant that Pastor Plinio is assisting at.
- For the preaching on the local radio that many souls would be reached through this.

Manoel Urbano, Brazil

Pastor Carlos Souza



Dear friends, it is a pleasure for me to be able to bring you news of our work and ministry alongside the Esmirna Evangelical Church, in the town of Manoel Urbano, located in the interior region of Acre.

We are grateful to God for giving us the privilege to be able to serve Him here, to be able to hold activities that encourage and build up our brothers and sisters in the faith, and also to bring the gospel to the unsaved. We have been slowly returning to a full program of activities here, and we have also been seeking to open up new areas of work within the church also. In everything we do, we place God's word in the centre, and we encourage each member of the congregation to seek out God's will for their lives. Of course there are many obstacles and trials, and there are many enemies who would seek to hinder the advancement of the gospel, but we know that in Christ we have the victory and His word will go forth despite the enemy.

All of our church activities are well attended, both by our church members and also those who frequently visit the church. It is indeed a diverse group, a

wide mix of adults and children, all of whom have had the privilege of hearing the gospel and understanding the truth. We know that our part is simply to be faithful, to sow the seed and then leave the rest in the Lord's hands.



We also try to maintain as much as possible the social element of the church, bringing together our brothers and sisters for times of fellowship and celebration, for example celebrating the passing of a birthday. We believe this helps to build up the Christian community spirit within our congregation.

We also hold 'house meetings' within the local area, where a brother or sister opens up their home to allow us to come in and hold a meeting, and others are invited to attend as well. In addition to those in the house being blessed through the ministry of the word, others within earshot of the building can also hear, and in this way those who are still unsaved also have an opportunity to hear from God's word. We have recently held three of these services, on one occasion we

went to the home of an elderly lady who had just undergone surgery to have a pacemaker fitted, she was 86 years of age and by the grace of God the surgery went well and she wanted to hold this meeting to give thanks to God for all He has done for her. This lady herself read a portion of God's word and publicly gave testimony of how God had helped her through this difficult and challenging time.

We also recently had a special service in the church for all the mothers within the congregation, to mark the passing of Mother's day and to say a big thank you to all of them for everything they do for their families. We were able to present each mother with a small gift from the church, and it was a great time of fellowship together.



And so I conclude by giving thanks to God for all He has done for us here, and also to thank each one of you for your prayers and faithful support for the work and ministry here in the Acre, and for us in the town of Manoel Urbano. Please continue to pray for the work in this place, that many more people will come to know Jesus as their Saviour, and pray for us as a family that we would continue to know God's help and blessing upon our lives as we serve Him here.



Manoel Urbano is a municipality in the state of Acre in the Northwest Region of Brazil and is one of the poorest municipalities.

The population is 9,581 (as of 2020).



Please pray:

- For the church in Manoel Urbano.
- For the house meetings, that they would be a blessing to those in attendance.
- For the various fellowship meetings in the church.



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Retired Missionary Update

Dr Tom and Lucimar appreciate your prayers, Tom continues with radiotherapy treatment and is doing well.

Dr Bill Wood's bloods are keeping better and he also continues with his treatment each week.

Millicent Bailie appreciates your prayers as she waits for surgery.

Acre International
52A Halfpenny Gate Road, Moira, Co. Armagh BT67 0HP
Tel: +44 7710 506939
office@acregospelmission.org | www.acregospelmission.org

@acreinernational

Acre International



For more information



www.acregospelmission.org



office@acregospelmission.org



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+44 7710 506939

