In Touch

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025



- Born in Brazil... Born again in Lanzarote
- Christmas gifts for children in Bairro Novo
- A year of reflection and gratitude to God

Acre International

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keith@acregospelmission.org

President's Thought for the Day



CLOSING the door on the Old Year stimulates us to bow our knees to our Heavenly Father in gratitude for His faithfulness, provision and protection for all our colleagues in their work. Standing on the threshold of this New Year presents us with new challenges in furthering the cause of the Gospel. In doing so, we want to express how much your continued support and involvement in the work of Acre Gospel Mission means to us.

This pivotal time significantly changes our role in the Acre Gospel Mission. Audrey and I were accepted as candidates to the Mission in 1964, married soon afterwards, and sailed to Brazil with Fred Orr on 5 April 1965. Throughout these sixty years, we were privileged to serve the Lord in many different roles in Acre Gospel Mission alongside our great missionary colleagues, many of whom have gone to be with the Lord. Even while pastoring churches outside the Mission, we were still deeply involved in its ongoing work.

During these decades, there have been many changes and developments in the Mission's work, and these continue to emerge in our changing world. These advancements and changes bring new pressures at a time when our personal circumstances have dramatically changed, and this requires me to step down from being President of the Acre Gospel Mission.

We thank the Lord that He brought Keith and Karen Lindsay into the Mission's work almost two decades ago. We are glad to be able to pass the baton of leading this work into their capable hands and want to assure them of our love and support for them.

We are deeply grateful for the privilege of knowing and building friendships with many of you, a direct result of our association with Acre Gospel Mission. Your support and friendship have been invaluable to us.

VICTOR MAXWELL

Born in Brazil...

Born again in Lanzarote

Luziene de Oliveira Silva

I WAS born in Rio Branco, Acre; but I was born again in Lanzarote.

My name is Luziene de Oliveira Silva. I was born in Rio Branco, Acre. I have a son, Mark, he was born in Acrelandia, a small town near Rio Branco. My family still live in these two towns in Brazil.

At the end of 2006, I decided to travel to Spain, to the island of Lanzarote, in search of a better life. My plans were to stay here for two years and then return to my homeland. Our plans are different from God's plans, and now I have been living here for almost 18 years.

In 2009, I had to return to Brazil because my mother was seriously ill. I stayed with her for a week. Those seven days very difficult days, but i thanks the Lord that I was able to share the last moments with my mother and bring a smile to her face in the midst of her pain.

Talking to my sister Luzenir, I heard that when my mother was in the hospital, a pastor stopped by to visit her. He preached the Word of God to her and she accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour, before she passed away.

When returning to Lanzarote, I continued attending to the Catholic Church for a time. One day, a friend invited me to attend a Christmas service at a Christian Baptist Church.

It was there that I realized that the Word of God was going deeper. After a while, I decided to stop attending Catholic mass and began to congregate every Sunday at this church.



From the bottom of my heart, I asked God that just as he had touched other people's hearts, He would touch mine. I spent approximately three years listening to His Word, until one day it was through a hymn: "How deep is your Love", that I felt that "He touched my heart"; Even so, I did not dare to take the step.

"My desire is to seek the Lord and serve Him every day of my life."



A second time, I felt again that God had "touched my heart" through the pastor's sermon; but again I felt unable to take the step. It had to be a third time, through a very clear and real dream; This time God's call was so intense that I immediately surrendered at his feet. At six in the morning, I called Pastor Alberto and asked him to please come to my house because I wanted to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my only Savior.

Approximately a year and a half ago we began to attend the Evangelical Christian Church of Arrecife, whose pastor is Ricardo. Both Pastor Ricardo and his wife Sandra are a great blessing to us.



It was in the summer, when the team were over from Northern Ireland, that I Heard about the Acre Mission. I had the great blessing along with the team of being able to serve at the "Coffee Mornings", where I have felt blessed to know that the world is so big and at the same time without borders in the eyes of God. I know that Acre Mission together with the Evangelical Christian Church of Arrecife carry out an amazing work, bringing the Word to so many people in need of God. I thank God for having met them and for having been able to share with them these moments full of joy in Christ.

My desire is to seek the Lord and serve Him every day of my life.

"Because for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21). Amen

Coffee Morning,
Moira Baptist Church Hall

Over 70 ladies gathered in to hear about the work in Portugal...



WE are thankful to the Lord for a blessed Ladies Coffee Morning in Moira Baptist Church Hall in November. Over 70 ladies gathered in for the morning and heard Judith Loney sharing her life story and telling us a little bit about the work that both herself and Mark have been involved in in Portugal over the past 30 years.

Judith along with her daughter Klara and sister Ruth also sang about the faithfulness of God.



Please pray for Judith, Mark & the family. Judith has just recently been diagnosed with cancer and will be having surgery in January. Pray for God's healing touch on her body. Pray for the ongoing work in Portugal and for the team there.

Tom & Lucimar Geddis are also very thankful for the continued prayers of God's people. Tom was ill again just before Christmas but is now feeling much better. They continue to value your prayers.

Millicent Bailie also had a spell in hospital but is now home and has carers coming in each day to help her. Again, she is very thankful for everyone who remembers her in prayer.

The Harvest fields of Northeast Brazil...

Much has been done but there is still so much to do...

Pastor Cesar and Sulamita



RECENTLY, myself along with my wife Sulamita and Pastor José Carlos and Eurides Eurides, travelled to the northeast of Brazil, more precisely to the states of Rio Grande do Norte and Paraíba, to hold meetings with the pastors, missionaries and their families who are linked to the Acre Gospel Mission/Acre International.

We spent 20 days with them sharing

"The two days of conferences were very blessed. Many people attended including many visitors. We had an average of 160 people attending the services on both nights"

in their churches and preaching at various meeting. During our time we all came together as a group of workers to have conference when we heard the reports from all the various Pastors and wives.

During the first number of days, we visited the churches in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, held services in each of them, and heard once again about their work, the needs and difficulties of each mission field that they face. After visiting the churches in Rio Grande do Norte, we went to the state of Paraíba to see Pastor Diego and Pastor Lucas and the work they are doing for our God in the city of Sousa.

Pastor Diego and Pastor Lucas welcomed us very well. They took us to visit the Baptist Church of Sousa and the Baptist Church of Resgatar, where they are the pastors, and showed us what they are doing and their plans to expand the spread of the Gospel in that city and state.

There in Sousa, Pastor José Carlos and I participated in the anniversary conferences of the Baptist Church of Sousa, celebrating the 46th anniversary of that church, where Pastor Diego is the pastor.

The two days of conferences were very blessed. Many people attended including many visitors. We had an average of 160 people attending the services on both nights. Pastor Diego is a young pastor with great vision in the kingdom of God.

He has plans to plant churches in the state of Paraíba, and he is in a hurry! Pastor Diego also took us to two neighbouring cities, near Sousa, to learn about the needs of planting churches there, because in these two cities called Cajazeras and Pombal, there are no healthy churches with good doctrine, and in other cities in that region there are no churches of any kind. The state of Paraíba is in great need of the Gospel.

It has almost no evangelical churches. Most towns still do not have churches although Roman Catholicism is very strong! There is much to do in Paraíba and Rio Grande do Norte.

Therefore, after spending these 20 days in Rio Grande do Norte and Paraíba with our missionaries and

We ask that you continue to pray for the Mission here in Brazil, because much has already been done, but there is still much to do!

getting to know the reality of each field, we came to the conclusion that ***"The Harvest truly is plentiful but the workers are few"*** Matthew 9:37, ***"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest".*** John 4:35.

We ask that you continue to pray for the Mission here in Brazil, because much has already been done, but there is still much to do!

There are still many people without Jesus Christ, without salvation! We still have many cities that have not yet been reached. Pray for the pastors and their families.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support for the work here.

Pastor Cesar and Sulamita

They that sow in Tears... **shall reap in Joy...**

Pastor Ageu Aquino

Hello my dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I, Pastor Ageu Aquino, my wife Riza Aquino and our three children Miqueias, Jonatas and Isabella, continue to serve the Lord in the city of Feijó, in Acre, Brazil.

Recently we celebrated 48 years of the work of the mission in this church here in the town. What a faithful witness it has been. Victor Maxwell along with others including Jack & June Bennett faithfully served here sowing the seed of the Gospel. Sometimes it has been difficult but God in His faithfulness has blessed the ministry.

Today, after all these years of sowing, we are continuing to see a time of harvest. The church has now grown to such an extent that we don't have room in the existing church building. Because we are landlocked at each side, we cannot extend the church and so the Lord has lead us to step out in faith, trusting Him to supply the needs to build a new building and Pastoral house.

Back in October, we began the construction of the new church on the ground where the Pastoral house is and where we also live. You will see in the photographs, the house



"Today, after all these years of sowing, we are continuing to see a time of harvest."

is under the new church roof. It is now very old and is falling apart and desperately needs to be replaced. The steel structure has gone up and the roof is in place. Now in the New Year, we hope to build the walls around the structure and we also have an image of the front of the church in the photos. The artist impression of what it will look like.

We continue to invest in evangelism and discipleship of the people both here in Feijo and in the congregations and preaching points in forest with the Indian tribes. In addition to winning people for Christ, we want to train leaders who can provide all the necessary support for the work here in future years.

Can we thank you for your faithful prayers and support for ourselves and the work here. God is Good! Please pray for our little daughter Isabella, who is seven years old.

Just before Christmas she was very unwell and after many medical tests, she has been diagnosed with diabetes. She has to inject 6 times each day. It is difficult for a young child but she is knowing the Lord's help each day. We must take her back to Rio Branco for some more tests in the coming weeks.



HELLO BOYS AND GIRLS!

This is just for you. Your own magazine!

We want to take you with us on great journeys to different countries around the world and see what amazing things our big God is doing through people who decided to do great things for Him. On the following pages you will find exciting stories, riddles, quizzes, craft ideas and many more things. We hope you will enjoy it!

Santo Andre:
Aroldo & Emmanuelle Areas



THE church ministries continue to bring us much encouragement. We continue to have many Brazilian families attending; some are now members of our church.

On Sundays we often have visitors from different nationalities, especially from Latin American countries and from Angola and Mozambique. They are Believers who have come to work for a short time in our area. So, they come and worship with us. This is also a great opportunity to have cross cultural fellowship around God's word.

Throughout 2024, we have seen the willingness of the new church members to grow in their faith, and we have seen their desire to understand better God's Word and to put it into practice. We are grateful to the Lord for this.

During the year we organized many special events such as Couples' Day, Women's Day, Family Days, Kids and Teens' fun days.

We have also organized regular discipleship and doctrinal teaching meetings so that people would be growing spiritually. We thank

the Lord as ALL these meetings have always been very well attended and people have been very encouraged by them.

The mid-week meetings including the Ladies Bible study, prayer meetings and Teens' Club also gather a good number of people in each week.

We continue to go Fatima to



evangelize the pilgrims three times a year.

During the last outreach in October we distributed around 7,000 Gospel calendars to the pilgrims. As usual, the team from Northern Ireland came to help were very efficient and we had a great time of fellowship together. Please pray that God will continue to use His Word as people read the calendars every day. Pray that others will come on the Teams from Northern Ireland in May & October in 2025.

Our Christmas outreaches again brought great encouragement. This year we had the privilege of singing the message of Christmas in four of our local supermarkets, Pingo Doce, Continente, Intermarché and Briomarché. We were very well accepted and someone was in tears as they listened to the songs. WE reminded people of the true meaning of Christmas and were able to distribute sweets, Gospel literature and invitations to our Church events.

Our Christmas and New Year outreaches brought in over 70 people including at least 6 unsaved. We had great times of singing, testimonies and preaching. Please pray that God will pour out his blessing on the work here in 2025 and that we will see a mighty harvest of souls.

Bairro Novo:
Children get Christmas gifts

IMAGINE wakening up on Christmas morning and having no presents.

Imagine no Christmas turkey, ham, stuffing, roast potatoes nor even Brussel sprouts… that's how the children from Bairro Novo in Manaus will wake up again this Christmas day. That's why we over the past number of years have, along with Crafty Bits and Bobs in Lurgan (Look them up on Facebook) raised money through our craft work to be able to give the children in Bairro Novo something for Christmas.

Each year we send out money to Pastor Cesar & Sulamita and their team of helpers to go and buy small gifts for each child and food parcels for their families. We pray that showing this practical love to them will help them to see the real meaning of Christmas, that God sent his son into the world to be the greatest gift of all.

We are very thankful that there are now over 100 kids that come along each week to the Jesus Me Ama club"

We are very thankful that there are now over 100 kids that come along each week to the Jesus Me Ama club and hearing the message of Salvation. Many parents are also attending each week, and we pray that the Lord will guide concerning starting up a new church plant in this area. On the final Sunday of 2024, two men who have been attending the Sunday afternoon meeting, both trusted the Lord as Saviour. This is a great encouragement to the team there.

Recently they had a mission's day when they heard how the first Acre missionaries from Northern Ireland arrived in Brazil 87 years ago. They sent through some videos of their day, wanting to thank the people who support and pray for the mission working Brazil.

Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry.

Photos below and over page...




ATACADO & VAREJO
BELFAST


HEBROM
CLUBE DE CRIANÇAS
Jesus me Ama

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Pastor Iran



ON the first weekend of November 2024, we conducted a very special weekend of meetings celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Church here in Campo Redondo. The public square outside the church was closed for us to have our open air meetings and what a tremendous blessing to have around 300 people in attendance.

The "Golden Anniversary" was an opportunity to tell our town about the faithfulness of God over the past 50 years and as we look back, we, like the Psalmist in Psalm 126 can say " The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad".

James and Dorrie Gunning paid a big part in the work here in the town. When they arrived over 40 years ago, the church was already established but their imput, prayers and faithful preaching of the Word saw many people coming to know the Lord as Saviour.

Over the weekend, we had special singing from the choir and the preaching of God's Word. Many people from the town also came along to hear the message of the Gospel.



The "Golden Anniversary" was an opportunity to tell our town about the faithfulness of God over the past 50 years and as we look back, we, like the Psalmist in Psalm 126 can say " The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad".

Please pray that God will continue to work in the lives of the local people.

At Christmas we also had some special services and again, because of the crowds that attended, we had to have some of the meetings outside. It's a great witness to the people here. We look to the Lord for His continued blessing and help in the ongoing ministry in Campo Redondo in 2025. Thank you for the part that you play in praying and supporting the work here.

Please pray That I will know wisdom in teaching and preaching Gods Word here each week both in the church and on the radio. I am also writing a book about the 50th Anniversary of the church.

Pray for the children's ministry both in the church in Campo Redondo, Laura Maia and Malhada Vermelha. Pray for the salvation not only of the children but also their parents.



My response

☐ I would like to receive your monthly Prayer Letter/Magazine.

☐ I would like a Gift Aid form.

☐ I have enclosed a gift of £ _____ to help present the Gospel message to the millions of people in Brazil, Portugal, Lanzarote and Northern Ireland.

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Email .....

Please send to:

Acre International, 52A Halfpenny Gate Road, Moira, Co Armagh, BT67 0HP

A Year of Reflection and Gratitude to **God**

IBEE SCHOOL Manaus

AS another school year comes to an end, we look back with grateful hearts for everything God has allowed us to accomplish. This was a year filled with significant events, all planned with the purpose of reflecting on Christ's love and strengthening Christian values within our school community. Each program was an opportunity to speak about Christ, sharing the message of the gospel with our students every day here at IBEE.

EVENTS HELD IN 2024:

1. Easter Celebration:

In April, we celebrated Easter, remembering Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. The children participated in musical and theatrical presentations that highlighted the true meaning of this very special occasion. It was a moment of deep reflection and worship.

2. Mother's Day Celebration:

In May, we hosted a heartfelt celebration to honor God for the lives of mothers. Through songs, poems, and small acts of love, the students expressed their gratitude to those who nurture and educate with such care and devotion.

3. Father's Day Celebration:

In August, we organized an event dedicated to fathers, emphasizing the importance of fatherhood and the spiritual role they play in their homes. The children's performances highlighted values such as love, respect, and faith.

4. Independence Day Week:

In September, we celebrated Brazil's Independence Day with a program focused on reflections about citizenship and everyone's role in building our nation. The activities underscored the importance of praying for our country.

5. Israel Exhibit:

One of the most remarkable moments of the year was the Israel Exhibit. The students explored the culture, history, and geography of the biblical land, deepening their understanding of the Scriptures and strengthening their connection to biblical narratives.

6. Thanksgiving Celebration:

We finished our activities with a Thanksgiving event—a



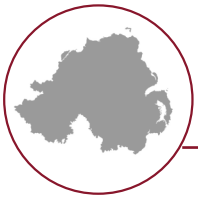
time of praise and gratitude for all the blessings we received throughout the year. It was a special moment to reflect on God's faithfulness in our journey and to renew our commitment to continue evangelizing through education.

Each of these events wasn't just a commemorative date but an invitation to reflect and practically live out biblical teachings. We praise God for guiding us every step of the way and for allowing us to share His Word, values, and principles with the children and their families.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us in prayer, encouragement, and active participation. May God continue to bless our school, and may we together glorify His name in all that we do.

May this past year be remembered not only for the activities held but for the spiritual and emotional impact they had on our community. With grateful hearts, we move forward, confident that God will continue to guide us every step of the way.

Wilma Do Souza & Team, IBEE Schools, Manaus



Prayer Meetings

The work of Acre is a great work, and one which the Lord has abundantly blessed, responding to the great sacrifices which many of His servants made in this work. The exhortation of the Apostle Paul is still relevant today:

"Brethren, pray for us that the Word of God may have free course, and be glorified" *(2 Thessalonians 3:1)*

Here is a list of our other prayer meetings, if you would like further information please do get in touch:

BANGOR: First Friday of the month - 2.30pm
CARRICKFERGUS: Last Saturday of the month - 7.30pm
KELLS: Last Friday of the month - 8pm
LISBURN: Last Thursday of the month - 8pm
LURGAN: Third Monday of the month - 2pm
OMAGH: Third Thursday of the month - 8pm
PORTADOWN: Third Monday of the month - 8pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Dates For Your Diary

Zoom Prayer Meeting:
First Monday of each month at **8pm** via Zoom
Meeting ID: 4350810967 **Code: 150967**

MONTH