

# The Edwards Family

Missionaries to Brazil

(Since 1997)

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Fundamental

Baptist

Gospel Preaching

Soul Winning

Church Planting

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MAY 2012

Dear Praying Friends:

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the one year mark of being back in Brazil. This time last year we were trying to wrap up deputation, pack up our belongings and prepare to head for the mission field. God has been so good to us and provided for us all along the way. Let me share a few of the recent blessings.

We are seeing steady progress in our small congregation with spiritual growth amongst the members, new converts, and many open doors to share the Gospel with more and more people. Our attendance ranges in the 20s with several Sundays toting 30. We recently celebrated Mother's Day and had 2 visitors in the service with a great time of godly fellowship afterwards. Also, we are preparing to launch a men's prayer group and a simple ladies' prayer band to promote individual discipleship, Bible study and of course, prayer throughout the week.

Every Tuesday afternoon and evening we visit and evangelize. I've been taking a new convert named Luiz with me and visiting many of his lost friends in order to witness to them and share Christ. Luiz was saved from the sinfulness of the night life, but now has a hunger to grow, to serve God, and to learn more about the One who saved him from his sin. Since getting saved and leaving his old occupation, he has had to reconsider how he makes a living. It hasn't been easy for him, but he wants to do the right thing and work honestly. Pray for him.

On Wednesdays, Luiz and I go to a couple of nearby towns in order to soul win and disciple new converts that we won to the Lord back in January and February. This has led to sharing the Gospel in additional homes and following up with more Bible studies. Four people have been saved so far from this extension of our ministry.

Our Thursday night prayer meeting here in Lages is a fresh blessing each week with rich Bible studies and fellowship amongst our fledging group. On Fridays, we have established a preaching point in another neighborhood of our town where we preach the Gospel and disciple young Christians who can't make it to the other services. Pray for this outreach as we preach the Word of God there each week.

Sheri and the kids are finishing another year of hard work in home schooling; and we are almost done with the documents for their permanent visas. Wyatt already has his permanent visa; Amelia and Katie have also been approved; and the only one left is Sheri. Pray that everything goes smoothly.

**Our main pray request right now is for our shipment of Bibles.** They are still in customs at the seaport and we need to raise an additional \$3500 for shipping, brokerage fees, port fees, customs charges and to have them shipped up the mountains to us. We have had to navigate a maze of government red tape with a mountain of documents. Those who would like to help ship God's Word the rest of the way, can send all contributions to the Gospel Preacher Association and designate offerings as Bible Fund. Their address is P.O. Box 465177, Lawrenceville, GA 30042-5177. Checks can be made out to the Gospel Preacher Association and they will send you a tax deductible receipt.

Thank you so much for your support of our ministry in Brazil. May the Lord bless you as you faithfully serve Him.

In Christ,

*Mark and Sheri*

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