

SERVANTS OF CHRIST

in Brazil

Newsletter September-December, 2011



The Rod and Ann Anderson family

Forwarding Agents Monte and Donna Shepherd bought a house.

Their new address is:

Monte and Donna Shepherd

2413 W 25th St. N.

Wichita, Ks, 67204

phone: (316) 831-0878

All correspondence and support should now be sent to this address.

Highlights:

1. Baptisms of Weslliane and Késia
2. Russell and Barbara Reichenbach's 50th wedding anniversary
3. Death of Military Policeman Isaias
4. Thanksgiving English Service
5. Process of legally incorporating the church in Nova Araguaína
6. Youth Group growth
7. Ann's music students recital
8. Forwarding Agents Monte and Donna bought a house

The birth of children is a joy, especially when those children grow to the point of having children of their own.



Their were many influences in Weslliane's life. Her friend Liauana brought her to church repeatedly. The church itself provided a healthy, loving atmosphere of acceptance and safety. Weslliane was exposed to many Bible lessons, both verbally and in action. After about a year she finally accepted personal Bible study. And because she had friends in the church, she was willing to listen when Kelly, who was just baptized into Christ, continued to encourage her to make a commitment and unite herself with Christ in His death to sin, burial of the old life and resurrection to a new life trusting in God, His good will and His Lordship over her life. There was no "one person" who led Weslliane to Christ but rather God, working through all his people showed in both words and

lifestyle the wonderfulness of His will for us and made it more desirable to her than anything the world had to offer. Weslliane's conversion is typical of the conversions we are having here in Nova Araguaína - not fast, not "explosive growth" but one that should last a lifetime.

Késia is the youngest daughter (11 yrs) of Josué and Francisca - our co-church planters in Nova Araguaína. She has been talking about entering into covenant with God for some time but it wasn't until this month that her father felt she had an understanding and maturity sufficient to make the decision to request forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God. We rejoice in the births of Weslliane and Késia into Christ!

Russell and Barbara Reichenbach recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are our good friends, Americans who have ranched in this part of Brazil for over 45 years. Their Christian example of faithfulness and commitment in their marriage is a great testimony for God's power in their lives.

Another dear friend and brother in the Lord was tragically murdered last month. Isaias (Isaiah) was a policeman who took his Christianity seriously refusing to be “bought” by the criminal elements. He was talking to a neighbor across the street from his house when two men pulled up on a motorcycle and emptied a pistol into him right in front of his wife. Isaias left a wife, Iara, and two children, ages 11 and 4. He was also Josue’s younger brother. He was very special to our own children, acting as a surrogate uncle to them. Please be praying for Iara and her children. Pray also for the churches and the police as they deal with the grief, anger, and fear which resulted from this murder. Around 600 people gathered together from the community for the memorial at the Rodoviaria church. Iara’s and Josue’s testimonies of hope, faith and forgiveness were powerful. Ps 116.15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his godly ones”



THANKSGIVING is always one of the highlights for us because each Thanksgiving Ann hosts an English thanksgiving service, both to teach our children Christian American history as well as using this for an outreach to the English speakers (and those learning English) to present God as active and trustworthy even in the midst of hardship - truly He is worthy of our praise. We usually have around 60 people present for the singing and preaching and (of course) eating. It is a good time of fellowship.

The church plant at Nova Araguaína is in the process of incorporating to meet the requirements of Brazilian law. There is a lot of bureaucracy involved. We are almost finished; just need to get the minutes of the last meeting approved and put into the correct format by the lawyer and then we are ready to turn all the documents in to the government.



Growth: Despite the problems mentioned in the last newsletter (or maybe because of them) the youth group continues to grow spiritually. Weslliane’s baptism was a result of the spiritual growth of her friends in the youth group as they learn to share Christ and to not just receive but to give, to serve Jesus. Another example is that a week ago I arrived at the church to find that the lawn had been cut by one of the youth. Not with a lawn mower but by hand using a hoe and scythe. This was done because he saw a need and wanted the church to look nice so we could be proud when we invited people to come. He did it without being asked and without asking anything in return! It was just a part of his service to God and to the church.

Ann’s music students recital. At the same time Ann started teaching English at Fisk she inherited some piano students from the former music teacher at the kid’s school who was moving. These students come from families who want their kids to be able to play in church as well as receiving classical training. So, Ann has been writing simplified piano arrangements of the choruses they use in church together with traditional piano training. Ann’s students just gave their recital at our house to show their parents what they have learned and how they are doing.

We wish you all a joyful Christmas season. “Praise be to the Lord the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.” (Lk. 1.68)

Rod and Ann Anderson and family