



The Lawson Family

Adventures of Faith - February 2024

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace."
— Psalm 144:12

We have seen a great difference in their lives of the many youths saved. Several have not missed a church service in four to six months, which means they are at church five times a week. None of our youths have a Christian home, and sadly, some of them, even though they want to come to more services, are limited by their parents. Keyteli, a girl saved in November, traveled with her family the week before Christmas for a family members wedding. However, she wanted to be at church on Christmas Eve, and left her mother and sister with her extended family in a city five hours away. She is only 12 years old, traveled alone and spent the Christmas holidays alone without her family just so she could be in church on Christmas Eve. **What a testimony of a new convert.** My heart is overfilled by her life and desire to live for God, and I am glad to be called her pastor. We are thankful for the adults that we have, but God appears to be doing marvelous things with the youth, which are "our sons" and "daughters." Gustavo, a fourteen-year-old, has been coming to church three to four times a week. **Our youth, is encouraging Gustavo to believe on Jesus,** and he seems to be very close to getting saved. Pray for Gustavo.

In December Ruth and Charity gave each of the youth that are faithful a spiralbound notebook and ink pen. My daughters encouraged them to keep the notebook with their Bibles and to take notes from the lessons or messages preached. This idea became a great blessing and moved through our church so that the adults followed the example of our youth and began taking notes also. **Now the youth come to church and ask me before the services start what my text and subject will be.** As a Bible believing preacher, I love seeing the people marking and underlining in their Bibles.

We have a Bible study every Tuesday and Saturday with the youth. A son of a fellow missionary, was visiting his family during his Bible college's winter break. I invited him to give a devotion on one of our Tuesday Bible studies. The fellow missionary invited the youth from his church as well, and what started as a simple bible study and devotion for the youth, grew into a special church service with the youth and adults from both churches. It was a blessed time of fellowship between the two churches with singing and preaching. **Throughout December we saw many visitors and on Christmas Eve we had nine first time visitors in our services.** However, December and January are our summer months, and since school is out until the middle of February, many people are away on vacation. Our numbers diminished greatly in January and after school starts back, we will commence to rebuilding our Sunday School, AGAIN.

In January, I was invited to preach a Bible conference in the city of Machadinho for the second time since August. I am thankful that I can open the pure Word of God and teach them straight from the Bible **in Portuguese.** Every church service went on for two to two and half hours with many Bible questions, except Sunday School, which started at 9am and concluded at noon. I never have imagined that God would allow me to stand in a church in the Amazon region of Brazil and authoritatively and definitively preach and teach His Word so that people could build a stronger foundation with Biblical doctrine. Also, I was encouraged to see three people that were saved when I preached there in August. **All three told me that they have been in church every week since they were saved!**

Lastly please pray for several things planned for February and March. This week, we will take a group to camp during Carnival. Also, on March 02, we will have a regional youth conference with a Bible quiz. We have invited 12 churches from around our state. The theme will be, "Living Sacrifices" and we will study the life of Isaac. Our teens have been studying for two months and preparing for the Bible Quiz. Also in March, I will be traveling to the US and Canada for three weeks. Last year I sent a box of Bibles to Toronto, Canada to a group of Brazilians. **My goal is travel to Toronto and conduct a three-day meeting, preach the gospel in Portuguese and win the souls of Brazilians living in Canada.** Since I was invited to preach in several churches and a missions' conference in the US, this will facilitate my trip to Canada. Please pray for that trip to be fruitful. I have one or two service days available during that time if you are interested in me coming to your church. Lastly, please continue praying for my family.

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