



# The Lawson Family

Adventures of Faith – April 2024

**Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily. – Colossians 1:29**

God is still doing great things through the youth of our church. On February 9-13, we took the youth to camp. This was a first for them and **they returned glorifying God stating how they have grown spiritually.** I preached twice at camp and **two people called on Jesus for salvation!** During camp, the youth and I prayed for Gustavo (I mentioned Gustavo, in our last update.) The following Sunday, Leandro told Gustavo that he needed to be saved, then grabbed his hand and ran him to me. I made sure Gustavo wanted to be saved as much as Leandro wanted him to be saved. We read several verses and the tear swelled up in his eyes. On February 18, **Gustavo called on Jesus to save his soul.** Thank the Lord! For many months, a Venezuelan family of six has visited our church. The family isn't saved. One of the teenage boys, Cristian, is coming frequently. Vitor, one of our youths, has been talking to him about being saved. Cristian doesn't understand salvation but we are praying that the Holy Spirit will work in him and that Cristian will be saved soon. **Please pray for Cristian.**

On March 02, our church hosted a regional teen meeting and 70 people from ten churches attended. Our youth studied very much for the Bible quiz competition and **they won the first-place trophy.** Also, I finally got the material to build a baptismal and **on March 03 I baptized Leandro and Keyteli.**

The last two months were extraordinary and **I feel like I have lived a scene out of the Bible** similar to Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. I made plans to be with Marcos, a Brazilian man in Toronto on March 21-23, but I didn't comprehend why the Lord was leading this way. I learned that there were over 90,000 Brazilians and approximately 200,000 people from Portugal living in Toronto, which showed me the need for the gospel to be preached there in Portuguese. Thankfully, God already had a plan in progress. In March, I preached 20 times in 21 days in the US and Canada, all the while I was traveling and working my way to Toronto. On one of those nights, after I preached in California, **a man went to the pastor weeping and was saved.** I stayed with Marcos during those three days in Toronto, and thanks to the help of Reese Parfitt, missionary to Papua New Guinea, Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Gamy Romano, we evangelized several Portuguese speaking neighborhoods and held a 3-day gospel meeting. Pastor Romano said that it had to be the Lord that called me to Toronto, so that I could help his church reach the Portuguese speaking community. We prayed that many would attend the services and be saved, but I now see how God was directing things. Marcos is a new believer and wants others Brazilians to be saved also. However, Marcos hasn't been disciplined and was attending a Portuguese speaking church that wasn't biblically sound. While preaching the three-day meeting and spending time with him I encouraged Marco to attend a Bible believing Baptist church. Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church showed Marcos the love of Christ, and he has joined their membership. He is now learning English, being disciplined, and is growing in a local church... AND... through Marcos, the church will evangelize other Portuguese speaking people. **Please pray for Marcos and this new ministry that will reach other Brazilians with the gospel.**

We planned special services for Resurrection Day. This was the first time that we attempted this but it was a blessed day. We had an additional morning service, a breakfast, then Sunday school, and regular night services. We had a great a number in attendance, but **it was a greater day spiritually because of the way the people came together to worship the risen Savior.** As their pastor, I was encouraged.

I continue to preach every Thursday in Ouro Preto, the next city north of us. Interestingly, the youth have decided to travel with my family to those services. This is wonderful, since they now are in church 5 days a week. For several months, I have preached on how to give the gospel and how to help someone believe on Jesus. Amazingly, this type of preaching also shows unbelievers their need for salvation. For example, on April 11, **two 16-year-old boys, Pablo and Usami,** visited the services for the first time and heard the gospel. After the services, they came to me about being saved and I opened the Word of God and applied personally to them what was preached and **they called on Jesus to save their souls!** They have continued to attend the services and last week they had many questions about how to be a Christian and how to grow in faith. Pray for them.

We started hosting again a community and family fun event at our church. This has proven to be very effective at inviting families back for services. We gave over 300 invites and on April 13 and we had over 50 people from our neighborhood. Twenty of them had never been to our church before. **The next day we had 38 in Sunday school** and new visitors every week since then. It has opened a great opportunity to give the gospel.

**Please continue to pray for our family and ministry,**

Brian and Jessica Lawson

Ruth, Charity, Jahaziel, & Rose



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