

**MARK
& SHERI
EDWARDS**



SERVING IN **BRAZIL**



March 2024 Update

SENDING CHURCH

Teays Valley Baptist Church

3926 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526
Pastor Dr. John D. Smith
304.757.9306

MISSION AGENCY

Gospel Preacher Association

PO Box 520
Oxford, PA 19363
President Dr. Gary Moore
610.806.6555

Brazil Address:

Caixa Postal #2009
Agência Coral
Lages, SC - Brazil
88523-971

Stateside Address:

260 NW 100th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34482

📞 352-895-5334

✉️ markandsheri625@gmail.com

🌐 www.markandsheredwards.com

📍 Lages - Santa Catarina - Brazil

Dear Praying Friends,

There is nothing like answered prayers. We serve an amazing God that has blessed us here in Brazil time and time again. There are times that missionaries have to write really hard news and ask for prayers about heavy trials, but this is not one of those times for us. We just want to praise God for calling us to Brazil and let you all at home know how He is still helping us further His kingdom.

This month was the start of our planting a new work in a town that is just over 40 miles from us, called Urupema. It is a small community of close to 3,000 souls and is known for being the coldest city in Brazil. We have felt the burden for this location due to the fact that a new couple (Sam and Diane) drive from Urupema each month to congregare with us in Lages. It's too far for them to drive each week, and too expensive with gas prices being what they are these days, so we have decided to go to them. We held our first study in their home and are scheduled to return with a study on salvation and faith. I cannot express to you how exciting it is to open up a new area, nor can I express to you how my burden grows when I drive by town after town with no Gospel preaching church. But, praise God, we are advancing ahead and getting into Urupema!

This coming week, on March 23rd, we will be hosting our first Bible Club in Lages. Amelia is at the helm and leading this endeavor. She has gotten a banner professionally made and is busy getting everyone at church involved. Her vision for this children's ministry is to reach our neighborhood children and draw the families in to hear the Gospel. Please pray for souls to be saved as we visit, invite, and prepare for this event.

Last night Sheri and I were both able to teach the men and ladies about Deuteronomy 18:10-12. It was phenomenal. What a wonderful way to begin talking about Easter and why we don't pray to dead people, but to the ONLY One who died, rose again and lives today! Praise God, we had six visitors who were able to hear the Gospel and the TRUTH! That is what it is all about, and I pray God gives us many more years to continue here in Brazil. It never gets old, and I love sharing my own testimony of how God transformed my life when I placed my faith in Him for salvation.

Another answered prayer this month was our road out here where we live. It has been progressively getting worse and I've lost count of the parts I have replaced on the car because of the craters and ditches. The city hasn't graded it in well over a year and the rains have washed away so much that it takes 15 minutes to go 2 kilometers. Well, last week as we drove to church, Sheri became very ill, and I had to turn around and take her back home over all those bumps on our dirt road again. As we drove, she looked out the window in misery, and asked God to bring the city workers out to fix it. God heard her and the machines were there the next morning! It may seem like a small thing to you, but to us it is a miracle and saves our vehicle from expensive damage. Hallelujah!

(continued)

Another answer to prayer also concerns our vehicle. Our car has been giving us a lot of problems because of the road and the rats chewing wires, and as a result, all our lights are on in the dashboard. It's running rough, and a few days ago as Amelia drove into town, the windshield wipers stopped working. We also can't open the back hatch. Sheri and I sat down and prayed about it and left it in God's hands because we have too much to do and places to drive to be without the car. We didn't tell anyone but the Lord, and that was all that we needed to do. We woke up and saw that a friend from high school had sent us \$500. He said he had been driving home to Alabama and praying for God to give him a sign about how much to send. He looked up and saw an actual sign that said \$500 fine for something. Isn't that awesome? It more than met our need for what I will pay today at the mechanic. That's our prayer answering God at work!

I will leave you with a couple of prayer requests that I know God will answer, but we would love to have you praying with us in a joint effort to see Him move and work in our lives:

- Sheri needs to have surgery on her ankle this year. She has been in chronic pain since August of 2021 when the telephone pole smashed her ankle and broke her foot. We tried physical therapy instead of surgery, but the latest MRI shows that her ligament that joins the ankle to the tibia is completely torn, and nothing is holding this area in place. The doctor was shocked she had gone this long in pain, but Sheri just laughed and said she was just glad to be walking again and not in a boot anymore. Her tendons still remain inflamed and holding fluid, and (as most 50 somethings have), she has a bone spur on her heel. So, she is back in PT to help with these until the surgery. After our son's wedding in May, she will return here and get the ligament repaired, and we really desire your prayers for this upcoming surgery.
- Our vehicle. Our plan is to donate this car to our daughter for her ministry and we will look for a truck. I think it will be more beneficial for me as I haul wood, feed, and supplies on these rural roads and travel back and forth to Urupema in the mountains. With all of your help, we paid off our current vehicle last year and have been saving the car payment money each month towards a used truck. I'm not asking for funds or help, just for God to lead us to a truck with low mileage and good price. Ask Him specifically to lead me straight to it sometime this year or next. I'm in no hurry, but I'm keeping my eyes open for a good deal. You would not believe what cars and trucks cost here. It's insane. For example, a used 2018 Ford Fusion runs almost \$30,000 US dollars. Yeah, I'm not kidding. Makes me miss my john boat up in the Amazon for sure! So, you can see why this needs to be a matter of prayer. Imagine if the hundreds of churches and people that support us each month asked God to lead me! I'd be assured of the best deal and the best vehicle with which to continue our ministry. Join in the prayer chain so that you can be a part of the PRAISE chain when God supplies!
- Lastly, and most importantly, all of these people here. I can't list everyone that Sheri, Amelia, and I are working to build relationships with and sharing the Gospel with currently. It would take several more pages. But ask God to free the bonds holding these people back spiritually. We live in an area that is dominated by demonic forces. It is no joke. The religious chains that hold these people to traditions and man-made (satanic) philosophies is so disheartening. Week after week we are turned down, turned away, and ignored. But I know for a fact that the Gospel has power that we cannot fathom. This kind comes by prayer and fasting, so join with us for the unsaved of Lages, Urupema, and Painel. We are friends with too many people that we never want to watch get thrown into the lake of fire for all of eternity. This need is urgent as the signs of the times point to Christ's return. My heart rejoices at that thought, but at the same time is burdened because I know it will be too late for so many faces running through my mind right now. Pray for a Gospel movement, salvations, and true-life changing moments to happen with these people in Brazil. If you pray for nothing else, pray for souls. Time is too short, and we are just 3 people amongst so many. May God call more missionaries to run towards the rest of the world and tell them about Jesus and the way to Heaven.

Thank you for reading this rather long prayer letter. Our family loves all of you, even those whom we haven't seen in years. We pray God's hand on all of your ministries and efforts there in the US because it is a country just as needy as Brazil. We are also praying for the upcoming elections this year, and for God to protect your rights to herald forth the Gospel like never before. We praise Him for the freedoms we have, and we pray that we all do our best for Him at this point of history. Let's not lie down, let's keep at it and tell the world, "Jesus Saves!"

In the Service of the Saviour,



Mark, Sheri, and Amelia Edwards