



MARK
& SHERI
EDWARDS



THE EDWARDS FAMILY BRAZIL



May/June
2025
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
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Dear Praying Friends,

God has helped us accomplish much over the months of May and June, and I am going to try to squeeze it all into this letter so that you can praise Him along with us.

Towards the end of May I was able to take a trip up to the Amazon to participate in the inauguration of a new church in the community of Anori. Two preachers from Texas and Arizona accompanied me and we were able to preach on the boats as we crossed the Amazon river to our destination. Praise the Lord! We hit the ground running when we met up with our missionary, Pastor Josivaldo, in Anori. The river waters were up, so there were a lot of rickety foot bridges to cross as we went visiting and inviting people to come to the services. We ran wiring for lights in the church, but unfortunately, the power went out moments before I took to the pulpit. The pastor said to keep going, so I continued to speak in the dark, and God helped me share His Word. It wasn't the first time I have preached by candlelight, and thankfully my iPad made it easy to see my outline. It was a wonderful week spent back up in the area where Sheri and I began our ministry here in Brazil in the late 90's, and I have to say, I sure do miss the jungle, the boats, and the people there. But God has placed a great missionary there to work and spread the Gospel. Pastor Josivaldo is an amazing young man, and his family is faithful to the task. If you ever consider supporting a national missionary in Brazil, I can recommend him wholeheartedly!

As I made the journey back here to the southern part of Brazil, I managed to catch H1N1. I was down with a fever and laryngitis for several weeks, so our young man, Anderson, had to continue in the pulpit for me here in Lages. Once I was able to use my voice again, I scheduled some new Bible studies in Urupema.

There is a young couple in Urupema that we have held several studies with in the past, and they also drive down for our church services here about once a month. Last week I sat at their kitchen table answering question after question about the Bible and salvation. Both the husband and wife were raised in a cult, so the things they are reading in the Bible are basically rocking their entire world. They had been told that if they read the Scripture for themselves, they would go crazy, so they never read the Bible on their own. At one point, as I explained prayer, the wife stopped me and asked in a shocked voice, "I can pray anywhere?" I smiled and answered affirmatively, and she just stared at me. She had been taught that she had to put on a dress and kneel at the altar in their church with a head covering in order to talk to God. My heart was so torn up as I looked at her and her husband and laid out the simplicity of salvation. The husband is a shy man, but he was on the edge of his seat listening to me. Please pray for their understanding and for their salvation. I believe it will be soon as we are headed back up there for another study next week.

This past Saturday we met with a group of 25 people at another farm in Urupema. This group from the surrounding cities continues to grow, and they love getting together to ask questions and discuss the Bible. We ate together around a fire pit outside, but then I shared the Scriptures. They have agreed to tackle the book of Hebrews this month which I believe will be instrumental in helping them understand some teachings they have heard and misinterpreted from the Old Testament. Their backgrounds all vary and I'm having to navigate quite a large mine field of false beliefs.

During this time in Urupema, Sheri received a message from our church in Lages that Mrs. Maria's adult daughter, Samara, had lost her battle to cancer. We immediately said our goodbyes and drove straight back to Lages and met the family at the chapel in the cemetery. This is a family we led to the Lord many years ago and they are faithful members of IBBI. Their daughter often attended our services with her mom when she had the strength while going through her cancer treatments. (continued)



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Samara was saved and loved the Lord, and we know she is in the presence of the Saviour right now, but it was tough listening to Mrs. Maria weep as the body of her daughter was brought into the room. We stayed with the family until late Saturday night and helped with the plans for the burial. Sunday afternoon we returned and walked over the muddy paths in the rain to where we laid Samara to rest. I shared the Gospel at her grave side and prayed for comfort for all the crying faces that stood staring at me. Nothing puts our mission into a clearer perspective than standing in a graveyard. We are promised that His Word will not return void, so we pray that those folks will make a decision for Christ. I will be visiting the family tomorrow and would appreciate your prayers.


As Sheri, Amelia and I headed through the hills of Urupema back to Lages for the visitation, our engine light came on in the car. We prayed and asked Him to help us to make it out the dirt roads and to the city without incident. He heard us and later as we headed home, the light went off. Praise the Lord. I will need to take it to the shop to see about an oil leak, but isn't God good? I believe with all my heart that He holds the belts together and keeps the engine running so we can get from town to town and share the Gospel. As Sheri always says, "Only God"!

This past Wednesday, one of our ladies at IBBI told Sheri about the burden she has for her college class. She is in her sixties but is taking a course at a local university and has been trying to share the Gospel with the young people. So, she and Sheri and Amelia made up a bunch of our Gospel Bags with Bibles, tracts, and studies. They made some beaded pens to add to them so this woman could pass them out to the entire class as a gift and tell them about our church. Pray that God would soften their hearts and that they would read the materials. Sheri and Amelia also have many places they are passing these out and sharing the Gospel with women they have met around the city, so pray for their efforts as well.

I am aware this is a longer letter, but I can't apologize because everything I have written to you about is something God has done and is doing! Our schedule is packed with events and studies for this next month and then Amelia will be traveling to the US to begin her time on deputation. She will have classes in Pennsylvania in September, and then will base out of her home church, Central Baptist Church in Ocala, FL as she begins to schedule meetings and raise her support. She will open her calendar for these meetings to begin in January of 2026. If your church would like to schedule her and have her come by and present her ministry to children in Brazil, please reach out to her at **(850) 501-9798**. We are praying that God raises up churches to be her prayer support as well as her financial support. It will be hard to see her do this on her own, but we know her calling to Brazil is sure and she is focused on working with the children in this area. Please pray for her as she travels and follows God's will for her life. She will be 27 in October and is starting out on this missionary path at the same age I was when I took our family on the road to raise our own support. To say my heart is pleased to see her following in our footsteps is an understatement. We are proud of all our children, but it is wonderful to see one of them coming back to continue in our mission. Praise the LORD!

Thank you for reading this report and for the prayers you are about to lift up to God on our behalf. These are some important times we are living in right now in the world, and I'm sure we all feel the necessity to spread the Gospel everywhere we go. Let's keep at it. You all mean the world to me and my family. Thank you for your faithfulness in praying and supporting us here in Brazil. May God richly bless you during this second half of 2025 and meet all of your needs.

In the Service of the Saviour,


Mark, Sheri, and Amelia Edwards