

Bless the LORD, oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Psalm 103:2

**Dear Faithful Supporters,**

**Fall / Winter**

**Family** - Our hearts are uplifted in gratitude and praise to God for His many benefits and abundant mercies and blessings. We trust you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We enjoyed precious fellowship and a delicious Thanksgiving meal with Janis' siblings. We laughed, cried, sang, ate, prayed, shared and thanked God for this wonderful experience of being together as a family. This was our first time together without our dear mother, now with Jesus. This past week we had the privilege of celebrating Dad's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. It has been two and a half years since he has been with us in our home.

**House of Hope** - Patricia got involved with drugs as a teenager. She also got into prostitution to get money for this addiction. She had two children which social services placed in a children's home. When Patricia arrived at the **House of Hope**, she was very sick with tuberculosis and also tested positive for aids. During her eighteen months at the rehabilitation home, Patricia received treatment and medical assistance, and she was also able to get financial support from a disability government program. But most important of all, she surrendered her life to Christ. When she left the **House of Hope**, she rented a small house and is living with her oldest son and is attending a Bible believing church. It is because of testimonies like this that we are encouraged to continue this challenging ministry.

**Church** - Renovation at our church building brought positive changes. A ceiling was put in, also new lights, doors, and air conditioning was installed. Now without excessive heat and mosquitoes, this place became more pleasant. In July we celebrated our second year and a half since we arrived in this neighborhood. On this special date we had a baptismal service and eight new believers were baptized.

We are excited with our new ministry with young people. Everardo, a man at our church that was a professional soccer player in the past, started soccer training with some young people at our church parking space. Word spread and the space became small. Now, we are using the community center, three days a week, with different groups of boys and girls. Most of these young people are from the slums. The soccer ministry helps keep them away from drugs. On the last Saturday at our youth meeting, we had forty seven young people from the soccer outreach ministry. Along with the growth of this ministry, there are increased expenses. We would like to purchase soccer nets, soccer balls, jerseys and shoes, since many do not have any. If you feel led to contribute with a Christmas offering towards this ministry, it would be a blessing.



**Thank you so very much** for your faithful prayers and financial support that have blessed not only our family and ministry, but many other families.

**Merry Christmas** to all and a **Happy New Year** with Christ's sustaining **LOVE, FAITH and BLESSED HOPE** in Jesus our Savior.

With Grateful Hearts,

Paulo, Janis and Jonathan Alencar.

