

# REPORT OF THE WORK AND FOWLER FAMILY MISSION



**Belo Horizonte - Brazil /November 2019**

Dearest family, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ,

Many of you ask us continually how we are doing physically. We decided to answer everyone en masse. Through all of our struggles we have done what we could. Many people tell us that we need to slow down and let our health improve in order to do what we are doing. If that were our attitude we would still be in bed, with others waiting on us hand and foot. We have only been able to improve because we kept going and doing what was (and still is) hard to do.

Before LaJuana had back surgery to correct a pinched sciatic nerve, she experienced grueling pain at every step. She was finally able to do spinal fusion in March 2019 to separate the disks that were pinching the sciatic nerves. It seems that that problem was resolved, but she still has terrible back pain at times. She continues to seek professional help to find and correct the problem.

When Eddison came out of herniated disk surgery 4 ½ years ago he was unable to raise his foot off the bed and sustain it; control the left and right, and up and down movements of his feet; navigate his legs; urinate and defecate; lie on either side and raise his top foot off the other one; or sustain his body while on foot. Standing alone was unimaginable. Praise God for wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, walking canes, catheters, adult diapers, laxatives, Activia, probiotics and natural fibers!



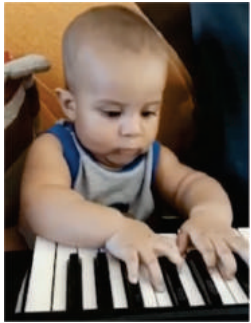
Praise Him also for brothers and sisters in Christ who understand and truly love and care for those in need. Praise Him for medical advancements and doctors, nurses and other caregivers who truly love what they do and always seek to improve their professions to give better care. Praise Him as well for adjustable **Neurological Stimulator Implants**, which help the nerves communicate to the body what the brain tells it to do, and reduce pain.

Praise him for **Gamma Nails** and the surgeons who can install them inside crushed bones to hold them well aligned and in place as they heal correctly.



People with difficulties do not need pity, and certainly should not be put down or pushed aside. They need and appreciate comprehension, and assistance with what they cannot do alone, or have difficulty doing. EVERYONE has contributions to make to society. God, through people who love and care for us, has given us new life and the means to continue serving Him and others as He wishes. Above all, praise God for Him, His love, His guidance, the strength and wisdom that He gives to those who recognize, love and seek His indwelling and want to be like Him.

**BRYAN** is driving for UBER and other applications and is working at a nice hotel. HIS SON THOMAS has been advanced since the beginning. He weighed over 8.5 pounds at birth and literally rolled over on the scale while being weighed. He has done everything ahead of schedule.



At eight months he weighs over 33 pounds, says some simple words, crawls, pulls himself up, scoots off the bed by himself, and is cutting teeth. He also plays with the keyboard using all fingers rather than beating on it like most children do until they actually learn how to play. He, like his dad, is very talented.

### **MARLINDA, LUCAS, NICOLLE AND DANIEL**

Lucas had a bout with Crohn's disease a few months ago and had to be hospitalized for several weeks, but praise God that he is better now. Even though he was hospitalized, he managed his business. The rest of their family is doing well. Marlinda maintains her sanity and keeps the family going, Nicolle and Daniel are growing like weeds and talking up a storm in English and Portuguese.



### **LASHONDA, MARCUS VINÍCIUS AND ADAM**

were brought to Brazil by God to care for her parents during a very difficult time in our lives. They took over the payment of bills, bank account management, purchases of needed groceries and supplies, driving and accompanying their parents to doctor appointments, bandaging and caring for wounds, and anything else that needed done.



They returned to Tennessee in June and bought a house in Franklin. Marcus got a job as Comptroller in Tivity Health and Lashonda as a Surgical Assistant in St Thomas Midtown Hospital. Adam is enjoying his new school.

**DAVID, WREN, JUDAH, JERICHO AND JULIAN** continue to advance in their respective places in life. David continues teaching technology at Ringgold, GA Middle School. Wren graduated from nursing school and works at Siskin Rehabilitation Center. Judah (12 years old) played his first year of football this fall.



## IPATINGA MISSION

Since 2015 the elders of the Central church of Christ in Belo Horizonte had been praying that God would lead and provide for them to reach out to the larger cities in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. These cities are located all around the state (which is 85 % of the size of Texas), and many smaller cities are located all around them. If the Lord's church were planted in these key cities, they could then reach out to the smaller ones in their area.

Prayers went up continually asking that God would show which ones should be targeted next. Three of these cities: Ipatinga, Sete Lagoas and Lavras were targeted in 2017 and the elders prayed that brethren from all around Greater Belo Horizonte would become involved. Eddison was asked to preach in a statewide conference in July, 2018 on the subject of "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send more reapers." The elders' prayer-bathed plan was presented as an incentive for more brethren to become involved, and the brethren were asked to make it known if they desired to participate in this effort. Eddison stated that as far as the elders knew there were no baptized brethren in Ipatinga or Lavras.



At the end of the service several brothers and sisters from all around Belo Horizonte informed us that they were excited about the effort and that they wanted to participate. Brother Carlos from Contagem (Greater BH) informed that there WERE brethren in the city of Ipatinga. He was present 10 years before when brother Lair was baptized there. Lair's son was also baptized, but had since moved to another city in the interior of the state.

Also, a young family of four (Thiago, Bruna and children) from Contagem was being transferred to work in Ipatinga at the end of that month.

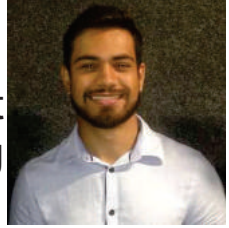
Word got out and brother Fernandinho in the city of Betim (Greater BH) informed that sister Fernanda, who was from Ipatinga, was baptized in Betim, had since returned to Ipatinga and every Sunday insisted on receiving their recorded sermons.



Eddison was preaching again at the Central church two weeks later on "Planting New Congregations", the topic that had been scheduled for him since December 2017 for that very day. He spoke about the new congregations that were to be planted in the near future. William and Renata Silva (who had graduated from the SerCris church worker training school in Campo Grande a short time before) ran to him at the end of the service, stating that they had been praying since the year before about the possibility of moving to Ipatinga to begin the church there.



Excitement abounded and the first visit to Ipatinga was planned for September 1-2, 2018. The Central church paid William and Renata's trip to Belo Horizonte and on to Ipatinga so that they could do their survey and plan their move there. The Christians then living in Ipatinga were present, as well as some visitors.



As we left the worship service that day, brother Fernandinho from Betim called us to inform that he had just remembered that Guilherme, yet another brother from Betim, was living in Timóteo (a city in Greater Ipatinga).

In October Eddison traveled to Ipatinga to visit and encourage the church and to help them find a meeting place. The brothers located and rented a location that was very accessible and visible from anywhere in Greater Ipatinga (called "The Steel Valley"). The brethren there prepared the building and soon began meeting in it.

A campaign was planned for December 15 and 16, 2018. Fifteen brothers and sisters from seven different congregations in Greater Belo Horizonte participated. This was the greatest participation that we could remember in a single mission effort among the congregations of Belo Horizonte.

William and Renata Silva's family and the Central church elders planned their move from Campo Grande to Ipatinga.

Their move was made the end of January 2019. A store was rented in front of the house that was previously used, which gave greater visibility and accessibility to the work.

With the presence of a missionary family in Ipatinga, that work became more solid. One of the four elders of the Central church of Christ in Belo Horizonte visits that mission monthly to encourage and instruct them for further growth.

Please be praying for the work here, Eddison and LaJuana's physical improvement, and their travels in the USA from October 26 to December 30, 2019.

**Thank you very much for your prayers, encouragement and financial contributions to the Lord's work in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Lord is working here and great plans and preparations are being made for the work to expand continually.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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