

# REPORT OF THE WORK AND FOWLER FAMILY MISSION

Belo Horizonte - Brazil /November 2020

Beginning with breaking family news, on October 11, 2020, God blessed our daughter Marlinda and husband Lucas Silva with Michelle Fowler Silva. Siblings Nicolle and Daniel are very proud of her, and the rest of the family as well.



As everyone knows, COVID-19 has spread all over the world and has especially affected the countries that have a lot of international traffic, such as the USA and Brazil. Sometimes the two countries run neck and neck with the number of new cases, deaths, etc. God has blessed us and most of the church here by our not catching the virus, but we are trying to do our part by using a mask when in public, observing social distancing, using alcohol gel when we have touched machines, door handles, bank and credit card keyboards, etc.

If someone gives you a lemon, make lemonade, right? The world has dished out a lemon (the virus), so God blessed us with the capability of using several internet platforms to do worship and Bible Studies online, as well as reach out to make new contacts. We have never seen such growth in the church and such excitement for spreading the gospel in the 36 years that we have lived in Brazil. Although we are not meeting in person yet, which has caused some to become discouraged, for example the elderly, those who live alone, the weak in the faith, etc., the pandemic is actually helping us develop methods of spreading the Word that we did not have before. You wouldn't believe how it is affecting the church here! One brother in São Paulo state wrote the following a few weeks ago: "Today marks exactly 120 days without teaching in person. During this period I managed to form 13 Bible groups online with 1256 students." His work is incredible, but many other brothers and sisters in Brazil are also having fantastic results from their efforts. Praise God!!!

The church in Belo Horizonte is being challenged. The city of Sete Lagoas, about an hour northwest of Belo Horizonte, a growing city that had 236,228 inhabitants in 2017 (the last census), has six members of the Lord's church who live there, however we do not yet have an established congregation in the city. We made weekly visits to hold a worship service in a member's home until the pandemic set in, and since then they have been without public worship services. There is a family living in greater Belo Horizonte that is very dedicated to God, are excellent personal evangelists, mature in the faith, have been married 31 years, have been Christians 30 years, two of their three children are grown and out of the house, and they want very much to work with the church in Sete Lagoas. We are chomping at the bits to send them there. If this does not work out, they will be moving back to southern Brazil and we will have lost a FANTASTIC opportunity to establish the church in Sete Lagoas.

For US\$1,000.00 per month now during the pandemic, we can rent them a house, rent a place to worship, and pay the low salary for which they are asking. This gives us an unsettled feeling. Please pray with us that we can get these funds together and send them to Sete Lagoas. We ask that you personally, and your congregation, pray about this and help it to happen. If each one who receives this newsletter, and each congregation, sends \$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, etc. per month, this can happen!



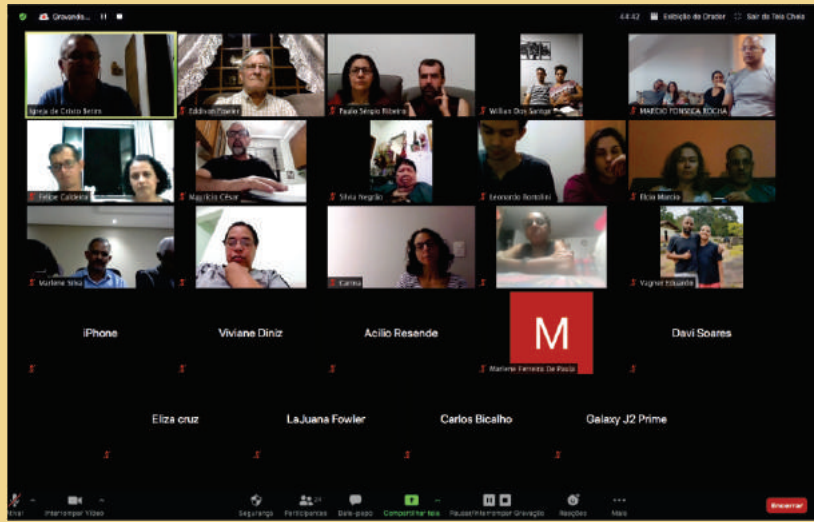
We realize that funds are tight now, but please consider this GREAT opportunity to plant the church in a large metropolitan city. If you, someone that you know, your congregation, or another congregation that you know is willing to help, please write us immediately at the e-mail address below. This is urgent! We anxiously await your communication!

The building of the Downtown church in Belo Horizonte is blessing the lives of literally thousands of people, so Satan used some thieves to put a damper on that. They stole all six of our air conditioners from the top of the building, which would be very difficult to do. The roof is metal, so you can imagine the heat in the summertime, in which we are entering. Because of our tight budget, we are being forced to replace the air conditioners with less costly air circulators, which also cool the air. Please pray with us that this system is installed very soon so that we can return to having live worship services.

Ivan Gonçalves, Our counseling minister, is doing a fantastic job of scheduling online classes with competent family counselors, which is helping every couple that participates, and these couples enter from the north to the south of the great country of Brazil. The past two months our brother Walter Lapa, psychologist, counselor and elder from São Paulo has taught EXCELLENT classes to the couples on very personal and pertinent themes.



The downtown congregation in Belo Horizonte has held our Sunday and Wednesday worship services through Facebook and Bible studies three nights per week through the Zoom platform. Paulo Sérgio, one of Eddison's sons in the faith, has overseen that ministry and is doing a FANTASTIC job. Praise God!



Speaking of sons in the faith, Eddison had the privilege of studying recently with Daniel Muniz Silva, grandson of octogenarian members Sr Alexandre and Da Andrezina. We are excited about his conversion (transformation) so far and expect even more in the future. He has great potential and desire to grow and serve.



The congregation in Ipatinga is going well. The brethren there have assumed the work and are carrying it forward. The Downtown congregation in Belo Horizonte only pays the rent and taxes on the building. The church there takes care of the rest of the finances, each other, and are reaching out evangelistically. Unfortunately several members were transferred to other cities, which is difficult for a small mission point, but they continue evangelizing and bringing others to Christ.



The children's home (Abrigo Lar Cristão) continues to be highly respected by the Minor Judge and his associates in Belo Horizonte. We now have three houses with 15 children each, and we are presently working on the fourth house. When it is completed we will be able to house up to 60 children that are placed with us from all kinds of difficult situations. Any financial contribution to help with this construction would be greatly appreciated.



We realize that budgets are tight, but we encourage all of our supporters to recognize the great investment that we are all making in the souls of Brazil that are open to the Gospel of Salvation, and the returns that God is giving. A brother in one supporting congregation wrote yesterday: ***“We held our annual review and planning session yesterday. Please know that we decided to continue assisting with your greatly valued work on behalf of our Lord in Belo Horizonte. We are indeed privileged by God to share in this work with you.”*** Amen, and these are also our sentiments. May God continue blessing immeasurably each one of His children and using each one to His glory.

EDDISON AND LaJUANA FOWLER

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