

May 2023

# CHRIST FOR SÃO LUÍS

## A MINISTRY TO SÃO LUÍS, MARANHÃO, BRAZIL

John & Ruth Navis  
Rua Mirador Quadra 19, Casa 9  
Parque Pindorama  
65041-192 São Luís, Maranhão Brazil  
johnnavis@yahoo.com

Forwarding Agent: Sylvia Klomps  
Pleasant Grove Church of Christ  
4713 Co Rd 140 SE  
Stewartville MN 55976

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Do you remember when I said to you that the number of Bible studies can have highs and lows? Just a couple more months and it will be a year since we left to go on furlough and the baptisms and Bible studies were doing great. When we got back from furlough the numbers started to drop. In March, the number of studies dropped to only two studies for me. Silvestre, Ranney and Ruth each had only one. Then only a month later, on April 16<sup>th</sup>, I just got one more which now makes 10 studies. It's like a roller coaster with studies. Monday morning starts with my first study at 6:30 and the fifth study is at noon. I would love to have five studies every day of the week. On Tuesday, I have another study in the morning but not so early. That study is at 9 o'clock.

As I am writing this letter, we are in the middle of a thunder storm. At least I am not stranded in the car sitting in flooded avenues. And no studies were cancelled. Easter Sunday was quite something else. We got to the church's building in driving rain. You couldn't see anything. We put out the word in social media that the meeting would be delayed. Two hours later the meeting started. A week or two before that the power windows in the car did not work. So, there we were in the middle of a rain storm and no way to close the car windows. Caleb had to drive home. I couldn't see anything in the rain and the dark.

Ruth was supposed to have her surgery on her other eye tomorrow but when the doctor called to confirm the time, Ruth said that the eye was hurting. He postponed the surgery for another month.

Caleb will be put into the preaching rotation very soon. There have been several people wanting him to do it. He already does the Communion meditation and helps the Worship leader. That is good news because Edvan will be missing three Sundays because of teaching obligations for the state university.

We had a surprise visit from Pioneer Bible Translators. Or maybe it was just a surprise for me. A representative from Pioneer Bible Translators was at Maria Zilda's house talking to the family. Maria is finishing her degree at the states university and shortly she will be studying in the United States. Not everybody is thrilled with that idea. After the studies in the U.S., she will work with Pioneer Bible Translators here in Brazil to translate the New Testament into one of the Indian tribe's languages. It appears that one of the languages will be from one of the tribes in our state. So, maybe it will be easier to accept for family members.

As far as Maria Zilda's leaving goes for the church, we will be very sad to see her go as she has been a huge help in our congregation, but she will be leaving us to serve our Lord in another way and this a good thing. In the end God will provide. Look at what the Bible says about suffering loses. It always says "And the church grew." Be it the death of Stephan or James or the separation of Paul and Barnabas.

Love,  
John, Ruth and Caleb  
Christ for São Luis



Ruth – after her eye surgery



Church during Easter Sunday