



# insight

Spring 2020

O Espírito e a noiva dizem: Vem! Aquele que ouve, diga: Vem! Aquele que tem sede, venha e quem quiser receba de graça a água da vida. (Ap 22:17)



*Mission workers in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil*

## MISSION HEADQUARTERS

30 Carnglave Manor, Spa, Ballynahinch,  
Co. Down, Northern Ireland BT24 8XE

**Tel: 028 97 563200**

**Mob: 07710506939**

email: [acregospelmission@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:acregospelmission@hotmail.co.uk)

web: [www.acregospelmission.org](http://www.acregospelmission.org)

# insight info

## MISSION HEADQUARTERS

30 Carngrave Manor, Spa, Ballynahinch,  
County Down, Northern Ireland BT24 8XE

**Tel: 028 97 563200 Mob: 07710506939**

email: [acregospelmission@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:acregospelmission@hotmail.co.uk)

Charity Number: XN47625

**web: [www.acregospelmission.org](http://www.acregospelmission.org)**

## insight contents

	Page		
Mission Addresses	2	Time Passes Very Quickly	8
President's Page	3	Asking For Prayer	10
A Desire To Serve The Lord	4	Reaching Out Through The Word	11
Spreading The Gospel	5	Meet The Mission Workers	12
Growing And Making Disciples	6	Note From The Co-Ordinator	16
Growth In Portugal	7		

### President

Pastor Victor Maxwell

Tel: 028 9209 3867

### Co-ordinator

Pastor Keith Lindsay

Tel: 028 9756 3200

### Treasurer

Mr Paul McManus

## Mission Addresses

### LANZAROTE

**Pastor Richardo & Sandra**  
Apartado 390  
Arreciffe 35500  
Lanzarote  
E: [r.ache.leon@hotmail.com](mailto:r.ache.leon@hotmail.com)

### BRAZIL

**Dr Tom & Lucimar Geddis**  
Rua Silvestre Coelho 478  
Bairro José Augusto  
69900-773  
Acre Brazil  
Tel: 0055 6832 245501

### PORTUGAL

**Mr & Mrs Aroldo Areas**  
Bairro das Panteras  
Bloco 3-3 1 Dto A  
7500-140 V.N Santo Andre  
Portugal  
e: [aroldo.areas@gmail.com](mailto:aroldo.areas@gmail.com)  
Tel: 00351 269 744285

**Mr & Mrs Mark Loney**  
PO Box 109  
8100-910  
Loulé  
Algarve  
Portugal  
Tel: 00351 28 9328635  
e: [iecavj@sapo.pt](mailto:iecavj@sapo.pt)

**Jeffrey Ferguson**  
Bairro Das Panteras  
Bloco 3-3 1 Dto A  
7500-140 V.N  
Santo Andre, Portugal

e: [jeffreyferguson24@googlemail.com](mailto:jeffreyferguson24@googlemail.com)

**Mr & Mrs Barry Henry**  
The International  
Evangelical Church PO Box  
109  
8100-910  
Loulé  
Algarve  
Portugal  
e: [iecapt@hotmail.com](mailto:iecapt@hotmail.com)

**Mr Glen Bowden**  
The International  
Evangelical Church PO Box  
109  
8100-910  
Loulé  
Algarve  
Portugal  
e: [bowden\\_glenn@hotmail.com](mailto:bowden_glenn@hotmail.com)



# President's age

It was a special joy in January for Audrey, Keith and me to visit Brazil. We were invited to conduct the 27th Anniversary conference at the Hebrom Evangelical Church in Manaus. When we remember how this church started as a children's meeting in a garage at the side of Fred and Zeni Orr's house twenty-seven years ago, it caused us to sing "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised." The 350-seater auditorium was packed each night of the Anniversary Conference which began with a Baptismal Service. God is richly blessing Pastor Herberth and the leadership of the church.

We were also greatly encouraged to visit Raimundo Nonato at the Manaus Municipal Market, where he continues his ministry of personal evangelism and literature. We were able to join Raimundo for a Thanksgiving Service marking fifty years of the market ministry. When we recalled the servants of God who preceded Raimundo and the blessings and conversions through this ministry, we had good reason to thank God.

After a busy week in Manaus, we travelled on a six-hour flight to Rio Grande do Norte in northeast Brazil for another week of arranged meetings. We were challenged, humbled and thrilled to see what the Lord is doing through our Brazilian colleagues. These colleagues, ten couples, serving the God in ten different towns, are on the stretch for the Lord. This is a region where fifty years ago there was intense persecution against Christians. We travelled from place to place, preaching in one church after another, fellowshiping with and encouraging these servants of God. It was exhausting but exhilarating.



In every place, we visited and preached, our colleagues stressed how much they appreciated the prayers and support that encourages them in their work. It was our blessing to see all the work first hand, and we join with them in saying an enormous thank you to all who pray and support the Lord's work in Brazil.



# A Desire To Serve The Lord

Glenn Bowden, Algarve Youth, Portugal



**Glenn Bowden works with the young people in the International Evangelical Church of the Algarve. Here's a testimony from one of the young people.....**

Hello my name is Luis Miguel I'm 21 years old and live in Quarteira, Portugal. I grew up in a non-Christian home with my Dad, Mum and older sister. Mum is a Carer at a local nursing home and Dad is a fisherman who has his own boat in which he fishes for mainly octopus off the coast of the Algarve. My family were never religious or ever attended any church apart from at Easter or Christmas. God was never mentioned in our home unless to use His name as a swear word. When I was 5 or 6 years old my aunt Rosie who had moved back to Portugal from America and was a Christian started taking my mum to Church. Very soon my sister and I were also brought along to church and it was then that my mum accepted Christ. This made a massive impact on us as a family but my Dad was just not interested. Faithfully every week my mum would take us to Church, Sunday school and eventually into the youth. There was only four of us that attended the youth group back then me, my sister, and two other boys my age, one of which died with cancer which ended up having a major impact on me coming into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Up until that time I went to Sunday school, and then youth but hadn't trusted in Jesus. I only went to the church because my mum made me go and when I was there I never listened or wanted to take part. That young boy's death made me think about eternity and heaven and hell and so because of that I accepted Jesus as my own and personal Saviour. I struggled with my faith through my teens only because I was more of a Christian by name than actually living it out in my everyday life. It wasn't until we started to attend the International Church of the Algarve Portuguese service and the youth meetings that I began to realize it wasn't about religion but a personal relationship with Jesus. That year I went to My first Camp Sonshine and was so impacted by the lives and passion these young leaders had for Christ that I rededicated my life to Jesus. Since then I really feel I'm growing in the love and knowledge of Jesus. I'm involved with the Church youth group as a leader, I work each year at the camps and translate the talks and activities. God has helped me and my family so much over the years, through my mum's cancer and finding work after I left school, also opening so many doors and opportunities for me to serve and glorify Him with my life. Please pray for my future as I move forward in finding God's will for my life. I have a real desire to learn, grow and serve Him, and the ITLC college is pressed on my heart at this moment especially because Portugal desperately needs a great awakening of its need for Christ, and it's just knowing God's will for my life right now. Joshua 1:9 means a lot to me in all of my past and now most importantly my future: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go".

Blessings Luis



# Spreading The Gospel

## Aroldo & Emmanuelle Areas, Santo Andre, Portugal



For many months now we, as a team here in Santo André, have been looking for different means to spread the Gospel to the unsaved living in our town.

As a result, since January, we have been organizing different meetings with the purpose to gather church members and their non-Christian friends around a special topic. Ladies' craft afternoons, a Dinner for the Senior Citizens, a young people's day out, a family day out and a Valentine Dinner.

The people here love food... so we have food, a short biblical message and babysitting has been provided each time.

This really has been quite successful among the church members who have been coming and who have invited their friends. It is encouraging that a number of unsaved

have attended these gatherings and the church members have thoroughly enjoyed them.

We are actually really pleased with the recent commitment of the younger group of church members. It is a small group (9) but they are present at the Friday Meetings, Sunday Service and special gatherings. They participate, bring food, invite their friends... It is great to see them involved and happy to be involved.

The Alentejo is a difficult place to work. It takes a lifetime to make contact and to win their confidence. Often when people are in trouble they find the way to Church and during those times we advise them, counsel them and point them to Jesus. Sadly, as soon as the problem is solved, they disappear and go back to their old life. But they have heard the message of Salvation and they have been given a bible or some booklets. Maybe this Corona Virus will draw them nearer to God. May the Lord grant us the opportunity to show them once again the real value of life. I Corinthians 1: 18-25

We therefore keep praying for people to be interested in God's Word not only when there is a time of need, but out of love for the Saviour.

We continue to preach and witness steadfastly and we know that our Lord will do the work in people's hearts.

**Aroldo and Emmanuelle**



# Growing And Making Disciples

Barry & Raquel Henry, IECA, Algarve

It only seems like yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas and all that goes with the festivities. December for us at the church flew as we began the month in earnest with preparations for another Bethlehem Village. It was an amazing weekend where we had over 700 people come through the premises getting to see first hand the Christmas story told in drama. It was so good to see both sides of the church coming together for the Kingdom and we were given an extra blessing as we had a group of 26 Brazilians come over from Dublin to do some street evangelism and give out invitations for the Bethlehem Village experience. They even came along and helped as guides and actors which was amazing. God really does supply!



The following week, we prepared for our Portuguese speaking Christmas Dinner with all from the Portuguese speaking side taking along food to help with the bring and share dinner. We encouraged people to really step out and invite relatives and friends to come along to the meeting and see the kids do some drama and singing, as well having the opportunity to hear the gospel. We had prepared for 80 people to come and really prayed that God would honour our prayers. On the night, we had 101 people for the meeting! It really showed us that the church is not built by human hands but by God's merciful hands.

Our son Matt came home for Christmas from his internship in Northern Ireland... along with a broken wrist! It was so good having him back for a time and hear about what God has been doing through him in the various schools and churches he speaks at. He also recently had opportunity to visit the USA for 10 days as part of a discipleship program along with some other interns and they met up with some youth from Canada. He had an amazing time and we are so thankful for safety in all of the travelling.

We have come to a turning point in the Portuguese speaking side of the ministry. God has brought some talented committed people to the church and He has been using them for His glory. I really believe that we are in a position to develop the discipling side of the ministry as that is where growth and maturity happen. God has been challenging us over the last few months about how we can use the committed mature believers to get involved with discipling others from within the church body. Our prayer is that we grow more into a body of disciples making disciples who will make disciples. Please pray as we seek God's wisdom and guidance in this regard. We know the enemy does not like discipling!

Raquel continues working alongside the Evangelical Alliance and the local schools. God has opened doors and it is amazing to see school which had no classes being given, now have classes with 30 plus students. God is moving. We also believe with the upcoming Bible School opening in 2020, we will see new workers raised to go and spread the gospel to people that are in spiritual need of hearing it with our focus being Southern Europe.

We want to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your love and support that has allowed us to stay here for the last six years. Your prayers have been what has sustained us in seasons of doubt and discouragement and your continued prayers will continue to make a difference with what is happening in this part of the land of Portugal.

# ***Growth In Portugal***

## **Mark & Judith Loney, IECA, Algarve**



Church services have been super well attended. The Portuguese group is growing a lot too which is awesome. It's getting to the point now that we will have to move over to the main building. The English side is also filling up with many new people and younger families. We have been thrilled that a young couple got saved recently who I have been doing a one to one with. A Young lady brought some friends to the Portuguese Service a few weeks ago. Her brother, who is very close friends with the couple, has been witnessing to them for the past 5 years or so via texts and messenger/WhatsApp. They have now also come to the Lord. Yesterday they both came to church and shared their testimony and want to get baptized and be part of a local church. So, we are all super encouraged by that. Especially that they are a young local Portuguese couple. Both seem very serious about what they are doing. Now getting married too as they realized that living together is wrong. God is at work.

As we send in our news the corona virus is developing. It's getting to be quite serious now and they have now closed the schools here and we have been advised by the Evangelical Alliance that we are to stop all church activities as from Sunday 15th March. There are a lot of implications with all this. Folks here are feeling very nervous with many being so far away from home. We definitely need a lot of prayer for wisdom with how to deal with this and keep folks encouraged. Also puts the whole plans for Easter and then camp up in the air. The Lord is obviously shaking the world system and we pray He uses this to wake people up from their spiritual slumber. We have just managed to set up online streaming of our service for our members so the timing of that confirms that God is ahead of us in preparing the way for the church to continue to keep connected. We might be forced to do the services in an empty church and have folks watch it at home. God is in control thankfully.



# Time Passes Very Quickly

Jeffrey Ferguson, Santo André, Portugal

We all know that time passes by very quickly, and seems even more of a reality over here in Portugal. Christmas 2019 is a distant memory now and we are already well into the new year of 2020.

## Christmas Outreach

We were very happy to have a team with us from Northern Ireland again this year to help us with the Christmas Outreach program at the church. This is the second year that a team has come to help, and each time they have been a real blessing to us, to the church and to the people of Santo André. This year, we organised a quiz night with a Christmas theme, and also a Christmas craft day, and a few people came in to both events. On Sunday we held a carol service, and were glad to have the children of the church take part, sharing some verses they'd learnt, and singing a Christmas song. The team also did some carol singing around the local shops which was again received really well. One supermarket even recorded the singing and posted it on Facebook! Overall the weekend was a good time of sharing the Christmas story with the local people and we pray God would work in the hearts of those people we spoke to or that we had contact with.

## Language and Culture Learning

The process of language learning is continuing well, it is an ongoing process which involves many ups and downs, some days it seems we understand a lot, the next day it feels like we are back to square one. It is a process which never really has an end, we learn new words each day, whether through conversation, in the class, or just by listening and picking up something new. We do feel that the folk in the church have been very patient with us, and continue to help us. The teachers we have in the local school have been very kind to us also, the 'official' part of our course has finished, but the teachers are keen to help and have invited us back to the school to get more material and teaching, all for free, which they are not obliged to do. We have been teaching the kids at the Friday kids club in Portuguese for a while now, the kids love helping us with the language and it gives us more confidence to speak and to use the words we have learnt. I (Jeffrey) have also been preaching in Portuguese, albeit a bit rough and by sticking rigidly to my notes, but people seem to understand and of course it is better for them to hear God's word in their own mother tongue. Marianna has also been asked to teach the Sunday School,



and so she is on the rota with some of the other ladies of the church. She too has been doing this in Portuguese. In addition to learning a language, learning about the culture is also important. If we as missionaries are not open to observe how the natives do things, we will end up discouraged because we are trying to do things that culturally the Portuguese don't understand. For example, we've had to learn that a Portuguese person saying yes, I'll be there, really means, I might go, but I also have several other options, and if this or that doesn't work out, then I'll go (this has been our experience when working with the young people). But this is something which is built into their culture. Many times, when something has been planned, the Portuguese themselves don't really believe it will happen, whereas for us, when we plan it, it's in our diary and it will take place. We find that they don't really plan ahead, but rather they act more randomly in the moment, and hence when we plan events, no-one really wants to think about it because it's too far ahead in the future. These are small cultural differences which on the surface seem insignificant but over time can become frustrating if they aren't considered. However, it doesn't mean we are restricted by it, it just means that we need to adjust our methods. So far what has worked for us is that because generally nobody will step forward and offer to help with organising events etc, if we go to a specific person and give them a specific task, and make them responsible, generally we get a better response. And so, this is culture learning. Observing the culture, and knowing how to make it work for the good of the church and the ministry.

### **Projects and Ministry Opportunities**

We have had the opportunity to be involved in a number of projects at the church. The monthly market ministry continues, at the recent February market Aroldo and myself gave away the remaining 2020 calendars into the hands of the people coming and going from the market. The ladies also recently held a women's meeting, organised by Emmanuelle and Marianna, and a good number of ladies attended. They hope to continue this monthly. We also had a Senior Citizen's morning, where we invited the older generation of the church to come and sing some of the old hymns, pray together and have lunch. Many of them do not get out to church so often so this is a good way for us to get them together for fellowship and to help them to feel more included. Again, we hope to hold this monthly. Looking forward to the summer, God willing we will again hold our Summer Camp, and we will also have a team of young people come from NI to do outreach work.

We have also tried to connect with our older teens and young adults more. We would love to have a regular meeting for them but due to different commitments and so on it has been difficult. So we have arranged to meet with them at different times of the week, on a one to one basis, maybe for coffee, or for lunch, just to talk and to listen to them and to be available to them if they have any questions or problems. We also have a few other folks that we meet with regularly, and have had a number of opportunities to share with them about our work here and about certain life issues. Please continue to pray that these opportunities would continue, and that we can be a light and a witness to these people.

### **Our Wedding**

Many of you will know that Marianna and I were to get married on 18th April 2020, in Germany but due to all of the problems with the Corona Virus, our wedding has been brought forward to Friday 20th March as things are so uncertain. Sadly, our families and friends won't be able to be there with us. We value your prayers that God would continue to lead and guide us as a married couple for the future.

Thank you to everyone who continues to pray for us, we really appreciate your prayers and interest in the work here and we continue to look to God for His help and guidance for the work here in Portugal in the days ahead.

# Asking For Prayer

## Ricardo & Sandra, Arrecife, Lanzarote

At the time of writing this article, Spain is going through a health crisis that had not been experienced for a long time. The COVID-19 virus better known as Coronavirus, which has already been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, is affecting life very severely in our country. An evangelical Christian church in Madrid was affected. The situation in Lanzarote is rather calm and quiet, so far, but the Health authorities have taken extreme measures to prevent it. We have developed a protocol based on the recommendations FIEIDE.

Old people are recommended not to attend church services. Also, people who have the flu's or colds.

We would like to ask prayer for all these issues because tourism will also be affected and the economy in our country may go into recession. Although, it is not good news, whatever happens we trust in our Lord Jesus Christ protection.

At this time, classes have been suspended in all schools, high schools, universities and academies all over Spain and also in Lanzarote for a period of two weeks.

We trust that despite everything, the gospel on this island of Lanzarote will continue its advance as God sees fit and that we can also respect and abide by the decisions of the authorities that have also been established by God.

Ricardo's mother, was admitted to the hospital with respiratory problems recently. She is also to have an operation on her knees. Everything is uncertain with this at the minute.

We want to thank the Lord that 12 people were able to complete their studies in Discipleship Life. This is a course we have been doing in the church to help strengthen the life of the believer.

We also would like to share the testimony of Ashok Ramchandani, better known to us as "Antonio Hindú". He has been attending our church for approximately 4 years. Through the advice of a friend, he began to come along to our meetings. Antonio had and he still has many struggles with his family, financially and has also had to suffer the betrayal of some of his friends.

He survived a major heart attack last year and also lost part of his feet through surgery. In the midst of all of this he recognized his need of the Saviour and trusted the Lord personally. Being part of the church family here has brought him much comfort and strength. He is recovering day by day and has decided that he wants to be baptized. We ask much prayer for him.

We would also like to share about Karina. She came from Honduras around two years ago and she began attending our church. She has been a believer in Christ for many years but says she has grown a lot in her spiritual life in our church and she is now serving the Lord in several ministries in the church, especially with the children, the women's meetings and recently in the worship group. She prays for the salvation of her two children and her parents who are now living with her. She is a widow with a strong testimony that she shared in our ladies meeting recently. She was raised in the midst of a traditional Catholic family.





# Reaching Out Through The Word

Tom & Lucimar Geddis, Rio Branco, Brazil



In the past number of months it has been possible to arrange for several thousand copies of the booklet "WHY JESUS?" by Mr Geoff McIlrath (Belfast) and printed by "Revival Movement Association (Dromara Northern Ireland) to be forwarded to Acre Brazil, where they have already been used in schools, hospitals and prisons by dedicated Believers who are actively engaged in outreach with the Gospel. Also a supply of Bibles and New Testaments for

use in their "Follow Up" activities. By this means the written Word has reached remote corners of Acre, Amazonas and Rondonia where there are no full time missionaries and few Believers. Now we can continue to participate with our prayers and thanksgiving. Thank you for all that you do in standing with us in the work near and far!



We are very thankful to our Lord for the safe arrival of two new babies into the church family here. "Ian Enoc", Franklin and Greysa's baby from Venezuela and also for "Marta" Marcelino and Awa's baby girl, from Africa.

We are sad because the virus situation has led to the cancellation of our Easter week evangelistic events and also, the cultural Canarian day in all the old people homes and in the Tahiche prison. FIEIDE's youth camp to be held on mainland Spain has also been canceled.

Our Church continues to grow little by little and we are so thankful to the Lord for all of His blessing on us. Thank you for many who have prayed for Angelita, one of our faithful members. There is always gratitude in our hearts for the work and support of the Acre Mission.

**Ricardo & Sandra**

**insight**

Page 1

# MEET the MISSION WORKERS

## Pastor Iran & Socorro, Campo Redondo

Thirty five years ago James & Dorrie Gunning left the comforts of retirement in Northern Ireland to go back to Brazil to the State of Rio Grande do Norte. They had no idea where they were going to live but the Lord had gone before them in all the preparations and at the airport in Natal a lady presented them with the key to her home in Campo Redondo, where they lived and served the Lord for a number of years. The Lord blessed their ministry there and today we see the spiritual fruit that remains to God's glory.



Pastor Iran was converted to Christ through James and Dorrie's ministry and today is not only the Pastor of the church in Campo Redondo but also our mission Field leader in the North East.

The Lord has been blessing the work in this town and on our recent visit it was thrilling to see the church full with people having to sit outside. They are now in the planning stages of making the church bigger. A good problem to have!

During the past year quite a number of people have come to know the Lord and over 30 have been baptised and many have come into membership in the church. The outreach work also continues at Lauro Maia, a village not far from the town. They ask specific prayer for the children's ministry there and the bible study on Wednesday nights. They also have a work in Serra do Doutor that has 10 members and others who attend the meetings there.

Please also pray for the radio ministry. Through the airwaves many people are being reached that wouldn't normally attend church.

## Pastor Junior & Cristina, Nissa Floresta

Pastor Junior lived a few doors down from James and Dorrie. Many times they witnessed to him about his need of a Saviour. Junior was often under the influence of alcohol but God began to work in his life and soon he trusted the Lord. James and Dorrie's influence challenged him and along with his wife Cristina and their family they have been serving the Lord in our mission for more than 25 years.



About 17 years ago they moved from the town of Tangara, where Junior was the Pastor, to work on a new church plant in Nissa Floresta. They acquired a piece of ground and built a new church building. Victor Maxwell and Keith Lindsay were out to open the new church building 11 years ago. Since then the Lord has been building His Church and many people have come to know the Lord through the preaching of the Gospel. They also have an outreach work in Mazapas and a small congregation. They hope to erect a building there.

in the future.

Please remember in prayer all of the outreaches through the church. Especially pray for the children's and youth ministry. In reaching the children, they reach into their homes and families.

### **Pastor Luiz & Aldeniede, Passa é Fica**

Luiz & his wife Aldeniede joined the work of the mission 14 years ago. They worked in the town of Tangara in the church there and saw God's blessing in their ministry. In the state of Rio Grande do Norte there are 167 towns and villages but only 92 of them have a Gospel witness. Luiz and Aldeniede had a great burden to reach out to the town of Passa é Fica with the Gospel and 3 years ago they rented a small apartment with a garage underneath to commence the work there.

God has been blessing the work in the salvation of souls and six people have been saved in the past year. Recently they conducted a Holiday Bible Club when a good number of children attended. They rejoiced in the conversion of a lady called Gerusa. She is from a very religious background and hasn't told her husband yet of her salvation. Please pray that God will soften his heart to the gospel and that he would soon come to know the Lord. They have a baptismal service in March.

The church have now bought a piece of ground and have commenced building work. Please pray for this building to be the birth place of many souls in the years ahead.



### **Pastor Diego E Suzane, São Paulo do Potengi**

The work in the church in São Paulo do Potengi commenced in a garage with 3 children coming along to the children's meeting 13 years ago. God has blessed the ministry there of Pastor Diego and his wife Suzane over the past number of years. Diego was one of the first converts of the work.

They are very thankful for all the Lord is doing and especially for two of the men in the church, João Maria and Leandro, who help with visitation in the hospital and around the homes in the town. They also help out with the preaching when Diego is away. They have a thriving children's ministry with over 30 children coming along each Saturday afternoon and have a good number of young people involved. The Discipleship course in the church is also well attended with a number coming from other churches just to learn from the Word.

Diego has a great burden for the town of Lajes do Cabugi. There would be a lot of opposition to the Gospel in this town with many people showing no interest at all. They have rented a small house where they conduct meetings. Open-air meetings have proved to be a great asset when many more people have listened to the preaching of the Word. Diego says "If they won't come to the church, the church needs to go to them".



**Continue on Page 14**



# MEET the MISSION WORKERS Cont'd...

## Pastor Adriano & Maria, Várzea

Pastor Adriano began supporting the work in Várzea in 2008 when Trevor & Yvonne Bennett were working there. He often helped them in their ministry and God placed that town very much on his heart. Over the past few years along with his wife Maria, they have seen the work grow both numerically and also spiritually. Today they have 22 members in the church and recently have seen a number of people coming through for the Lord in Salvation.

Each week they have an outreach at the local market in the town when many people from all over the region come. They also have open air children's clubs out in different areas of the town. More attend these meetings than come to the children's meetings in the church.

A new outreach has also commenced into the town of Espirito Santo. Three others from the church go on their bicycles the 8km to help in the meetings with the children and also the open-air services. They also have an outreach programme at the market there. Pray that out of this a new church plant will develop.



## Pastor Jose Soares & Filimena, Santa Cruz

Jose has just celebrated 35 years serving the Lord in the town of Santa Cruz. Filimena was one of the first converts in the church and he ended up marrying her! They have been faithful in reaching not only into the town of Santa Cruz with the gospel but also so many of the neighbouring towns and villages travelling on their old motorbike.

The Radio ministry has also been on air for 26 years and it is a great way of communicating the gospel to those in the remote parts who would never attend the church. Jose has had the joy over the years of leading over 700 people to Christ.

Santa Cruz is very different than it was 10 years ago. Today many tourists visit the town because of the statue of Santa Rita which towers 56 metres tall on top of the hill beside the town. God has given many opportunities to distribute literature at pilgrimages and since January many thousands of Gospel tracts have been given out.



## Pastor Neto & Layaze, João Câmara

They value prayer for the children's ministry in the church. They collect children by car for the meetings and sometimes on a Saturday afternoon the children stay for the youth meetings at night. They also ask prayer for the Sunday School ministry that more children will attend.

Recently a man received a bible and Neto was amazed when he visited him, how much he knew from reading through it. Pray that he comes to know the Lord personally very soon. A girl called Julia also received the monthly devotional and has started to attend the services. God evidently has touched her heart. She is a



very gifted musician. She's not saved yet but other members of her family are. Please also pray for Abigail who is also attending the services and isn't saved yet.

The Ladies ministry has commenced for this year with a good number attending. Tract distribution and meetings in member's homes have also proved to be very profitable and give opportunity for conversation with unsaved in the town. Pray that the church members will catch a greater vision for mission and outreach.

### **Abraão & Priscila, Pau Brasil, São José**

Abraão and his wife Priscila have been serving the Lord over the past year in the Pau Brazil area of the town of São José. The church plant meets outside an old house on a piece of ground that has just recently been donated to the work to build a new church building on.

Each Sunday Morning and Thursday night a group meet there in the open air to preach the gospel and study God's Word and just recently they had the joy of seeing their first person saved. Planning is in the final stages to begin to build a new church building. Please pray that the Lord will supply the need for this. The children's club has around 6 or 7 children attending each week and they ask prayer that many others will come along. Abraão is very thankful for the help of Pastor Junior and also Pastor Edmilson in this new church plant.



### **Pastor Laércio & Nelma, Lajes Pintadas**

We welcome Pastor Laercio and Nelma his wife and their family into the work of the mission. He had been pastoring a church in another state of Brazil before accepting the call to the church in Lajes Pintadas and moving there at the beginning of January.

This is a very difficult town for the Gospel and there has been much persecution over the years. Special times of prayer for a week each month have been planned to try and get the work up and running again. There is no Sunday school but they hope to restart that in the coming weeks. They are also planning a Children's ministry as their recent children's holiday Bible club brought over 20 children in each day. Meetings are planned for some of the believes homes and open air outreach is also planned to reach out into the town. Please pray for wisdom and for contacts with individuals.



### **Pastor Walkenio & Hadassa, Montanhas**

We also welcome Pastor Walkenio and his wife Hadassa and their daughter Sophia to the work of the mission. They are working in the town of Montanhas which is also a new church plant over the past year. They have a church meeting in a garage. A number of people have attended the meetings and they now have a congregation of around 20 people coming faithfully each week. Some have come and gone but just recently Manoel trusted the Lord. Please pray for the ongoing evangelism in the town and a more permanent building. They have commenced two new bible studies each week.



## A Note From The Co-Ordinator...

We are living in days that are very uncertain, hearts are fearful and many people are concerned about the outbreak pandemic of the Corona Virus. Isn't it wonderful to know as the Children of God, that we are in His hands and that we have the confidence that "He will never leave us nor forsake us". God's Word reminds us that when these things begin to come to pass, we need to look upwards, for our redemption draweth nigh. May the Lord protect and strengthen each of us in these days.

At the time of writing this, many of our churches and many shops and businesses have been closed for a number of weeks to try and contain the virus. Many of our meetings have been cancelled and mission activities are uncertain in the coming months. We very much value your prayers and support during these difficult days. The Lord is in control! He is our refuge and strength and we lift our hearts and eyes to Him.

We continue to plan for events in the coming months. Here are some dates for your diary.

Please continue to pray for Andrew & Kim McCormick who were in Portugal. They have now withdrawn from the mission.

Victor & Audrey Maxwell and myself had a very blessed and profitable trip to Brazil in January. It was such an encouragement to us to see the vision and passion of the Brazilian workers both in Amazonas and also in Rio Grande de Norte. What a blessing to hear of souls coming to know the Lord and also new churches being raised up in towns without any Gospel witness.

**Keith Lindsay**

### MY RESPONSE

- I would like to receive your monthly prayer letter/magazine
- I would like a gift aid form
- I have enclosed a gift of £..... to help present the Gospel Message to the millions of people in Brazil, Portugal, Lanzarote and Northern Ireland.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Email.....

Please send to:

Acre International, 30 Carnglave Manor, Spa,  
Ballynahinch, BT24 8XE



### Diary Dates for 2020

#### Acre BBQ

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June @ 7:00pm (DV)

Faith Mission Centre, Portadown

#### Acre Annual Dinner

Saturday, 3rd October @ 7:00pm (DV)

Lisburn Congregational Church Hall

#### Killyhevlin Autumn Break

(Enniskillen)

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November

#### Acre Christmas Praise Night

Saturday, 28th November (DV)