



# insight

Summer 2019



**BIBLE GARDEN JECA PORTUGAL**

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# P resident's en

Thank you for your continued prayer support for all our workers. God has been blessing on the various locations and your partnership in this work is invaluable. I know you will be praying for Andrew and Kim McCormick as they commence their new journey with us in Portugal. After the summer camps they will start language study for one year and they certainly need prayer for that.

I have just completed a new book on "God's Promises for Daily Living" which links the promises of God to many remarkable experiences. It should be published by September. God willing, we hope to be up at Portrush just in July and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you for remembering Dr. Bill Woods in prayer. At the time of writing, Bill is back in Rio Branco for a number of weeks. He continues with his Chemotherapy when he returns home. He appreciates your prayers and support.

In our Lord, Victor and Audrey

**Victor and Audrey**

We welcome Andrew & Kim McCormick to the work of Acre. They have just moved over to Portugal at the end of June. They commence Language school at Coimbra University in September after the busy summer programme of camps and services at the IECA.

Please remember their families at home and pray as they settle into the work of Acre.





# Pastor Ricardo & Sandra

## write from Lanzarote:



Special services are used to invite friends, neighbors and people who are not believers under the sound of the Word of God in our church. Over the past months, there have been many special outreaches and events within the church and we are very thankful for the many unsaved that have attended.

We are strengthened by our Lord Jesus Christ to continue preaching the gospel of salvation and witnessing as a church for the people of Lanzarote. Over the past months, some new people have been attending the church. A number have come from Venezuela. Eloyner,

Ruth Nerys, Belmir and Abhay have all integrated well into the church.

The Discipleship course in the church has been very well attended with 12 students eager to learn more of the Word of God.

Recently we had a number of outreaches because of the Canarian week. We again had opportunity to share the Gospel in the Hospital, the four old people's homes and in the prison at Tahiche. Some of the older people have heard the Gospel for the first time but sadly some will have heard it for the last time. Pray for the good seed planted in hearts.

Two of our very faithful members have not been very well recently. Please pray for Angelita and Manuela. The good thing is that both of their unsaved husbands have been also attending the church with them. Please pray for Tomas and Geromo.

Margarita, Angelita's mum who was 94 went home to be with the Lord on 20th June and her funeral the next day had over 70 attending. Over half of them were unsaved. She got saved 3 years ago and has left a bright testimony for the Lord. Please pray for her family.

In May, Jesus and Ruth lead a Marriage retreat with 10 couples attending. This was a very profitable time.

Ricardo along with Elkin (One of the elders in the church) travelled to Cádiz on Mainland Spain for the national congress of the federation of our independent churches. Aroldo and Emmanuelle travelled down from Portugal to visit over the weekend. We had a blessed time of fellowship with them. We greatly appreciate our colleagues from the Acre Mission. They are a blessing.

We are looking forward to the Mission Team coming over from Northern Ireland again for the Outreach and Camp 5th – 19th August. Please remember the team. . . there are 21 of them coming. . . We are planning not only the camp but also many other forms of outreach including Beach Mission, Children's Clubs in the plazas, literature outreach and also the regular hospital and church services. Pray for the various backgrounds that the children are coming from. This year we have been able to buy Bibles (because of a very kind donation) for every child and young person who will attend camp. It is getting the Word of God not only into their hands but also into their homes.

Thank you again for your love, support and prayers for the work here in Lanzarote.



# A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

## Glen Bowden, Algarve Youth, Portugal



We are excited to tell you about a new exciting vision that we have in partnership with the International Evangelical Church of the Algarve and opportunities in which we believe God is leading us into. Our vision is to provide theological and practical ministry training

particularly for those who have a desire to work in Portugal and southern European countries. We have been challenged by the fact that according to the Portuguese Evangelical Alliance only 0.4 percent of the population of Portugal considers itself to be Evangelical. The Algarve itself is strategically becoming more and more important in terms of national and world evangelism with the growth in national and international tourism to this region. The equivalent of the whole population of Portugal passes through this region every year and more and more people are moving here. This

influx of nationals and internationals is creating more openness among the local Portuguese who have in the past been traditionally very closed to the Gospel. We feel that as an International Evangelical church we have the contacts, potential resources and opportunity to make a difference to this country through training national and international young people who have a heart for Portugal and Europe. Our vision and strategy is to train young people and send them out from here across Portugal and Europe with a desire to be a support base for them in the ministries into which God leads them.

The idea is that we seek to begin (October 2020) with a small group of live-in students (self-catering) who will be offered the theological training from visiting lecturers who come for a particular subject or theme during one or two weeks of intensive seminars. The other part of each month would offer time for reading, essays and practical ministry in various churches across the Algarve and further North. We have contacted both international and Portuguese churches across the Algarve and beyond and many have shown interest in getting involved in offering placement opportunities for the students within their own ministries. We want to focus on things like pastoral care, counselling, church structure/organization, evangelism training/strategy, worship, personal devotion, Christian character/disciplines, dealing with conflict and criticism along with the Biblical aspect of a theological programme. We have contacted many lecturers who have been involved with the Belfast Bible College in particular and other good teachers have been approached in Northern Ireland and in the US including some pastors who have just received their doctorates in Theological training and teaching. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback and many have committed to coming and helping fill the slots we require. We want to make the course as affordable as possible for the students so we are offering a very affordable live in package so there are no barriers in the way of potential students taking part in this amazing opportunity of getting to know God more and making Him known. Please pray for us and this new venture that it would be God glorying and used for the growth and the extension of His Kingdom.



*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

## Aroldo & Emmanuelle Areas, Santo Andre, Portugal



A short while ago, as I was talking to a dear friend from Northern Ireland, we were commenting the numbers at our church mid-week meetings and at our Sunday services. For us numbers are not as high as we could have expected after nearly three decades of Missionary/Pastoral ministry in this area.

This dear friend reminded us that there is a time for everything. "You are sowing", she said, "And you will be surprised to see the fruit that will be reaped out of your different ministries". And indeed the sowing ministry has been on for many years. During the 90's and the 2000's we had many regular children's clubs and young people's meetings, which were usually very well attended.

For 15 years I, Aroldo, also visited the market places all around our area and had opportunity to share the good news of the Gospel with many people. Over the years hundreds of thousands of pieces of Christian literature and Bibles have been distributed. Many market vendors were reached and many Evangelical gypsy market vendors got different books and had good conversations with me to strengthen their faith.

For over 12 years, two or three times a year, we have also been, with the teams from Northern Ireland and the UK, to Fatima to evangelize the pilgrims who go there to worship Mary. There, we usually distribute Christian calendars which are always very well received. And each year, I usually receive around 50 requests from all over the world from people, mainly Catholics, who want to have the next copy of this evangelical calendar and sometimes bibles.

For 15 years, I have been the Pastor of Santo Andre Evangelical Church. And we have tried our best to soundly teach and encourage all the people who have been attending our wee church, no matter if these people would attend for a few weeks, or a few months or a few years.

Indeed, our church has welcomed many people throughout the years, but many of them, because of employment, do not stay. It is due to our location. This region of the Alentejo is the poorest and most less developed area in all of Portugal. Employment here is scarce and there is no University nearby so, sooner or later, most adults and young people will move away. Yet, we continue to sow the seed of the Gospel amongst the people who live in our town. We witness to them and we thoroughly teach them when they attend our meetings.

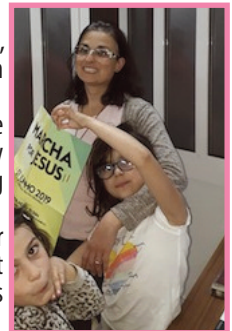
Having said that, our loving Lord has blessed us and has allowed us to see the fruit of some of our work.

Rosalina came our church 15 years ago as a very young baby in the faith and with very mixed and confused teachings from a Pentecostal church. Since then, she has grown up spiritually and is now a pillar of our church. She is 75 but she is involved in every activity and attends every meeting of the church. As the only Christian in her family, she is also trying her best to witness, through the Word and through her actions, to her husband, son and grandchildren. She is a real blessing to the Church and a great friend.

Marco, our Deacon and young people's leader, is a fruit of the market work. Once saved, Marco, his wife Daniela and his daughters have become dedicated members of our church and have been serving here faithfully for many years.

Filipa is another faithful and dedicated member. She came to our church as a complete atheist. Yet the power of the Holy Spirit strongly worked in her heart. After attending regularly our Sunday Services and mid-week meetings, she got saved and is now a spiritually strong Christian very eager to learn more about God's word all the time.

Tania is another fruit that the Lord has been gracious enough to show us. This young mother of 4 has lived through very difficult times but her faith has grown very much over the past year and she is very eager to learn from God's Word and to seek the Lord's guidance. She has actually taken one week off her job in the Summer to help us for our Summer Camp.



# Looking Back & Looking Forward

## Barry & Raquel Henry, Algarve, Portugal

Someone once said; "We look back and thank God, we look forward and Trust God." We have a lot to thank God for in what has been in 2019. As we come into the summer season and all that it brings in terms of activities and ministry, the preceding months have been ones of grace upon grace, mercy upon mercy, looking to the One whose faithfulness is great.

We thank God for what He has done in opening the spiritual eyes of those who have made Vale Judeu their local church. Both Isabel Santos and Gino Semedo came to visit the church and the Lord worked in both of them with both of them confessing the Lord as their Saviour and professing publicly their faith through the waters of baptism. It has been a humbling and rewarding pleasure to be able to walk alongside them in discipleship and see God bringing growth to their lives on a daily basis. We continue to meet on a Friday morning, going through the foundational truths of our faith and it is amazing to see how they have been growing in the knowledge of their Saviour. They know it is a process but one that they have entrusted to God for guidance and direction. Portugal is a place that does not have much history when it comes to the spread of the Gospel. We continue to pray that people, like Gino and Isabel who have become disciples, will be used in turn to make disciples.

Our group has grown with people who want to be actively involved in church life and it has been an answer to prayer to see these people put their gifts to use and see them also exemplify Christian service. It is a pastor's joy to be able to see potential leaders develop their gifts and use them for the local church. We pray that, with the potential Bible School, we may even see some of the local body become students and be used as missionaries in different areas of the country.

We look back and see God's hand of sustaining and protection in our family life and especially with Raquel's position with the Evangelical Alliance. God answered prayer in such a direct way and we can only thank Him for all He has done for us as a family. Matt has also finished Secondary school and is looking into his options for University. It only seems like yesterday that he was only beginning school. time stops for no man!

Looking forward, we trust God will continue to guide our steps here in this part of the Algarve. There are so many that are putting their faith and hope into empty promises and things that have no lasting value. We trust that God will use us and give us those divinely appointed meetings where He can break down those barriers and open the eyes of the blind to the truth. We are already prayerfully looking at what we can do to reach further into the community in the new season.

Tony Macedo, who is a recent addition to the church group, has a passion for evangelism and we want to implement some evangelism work in the nearby areas to reach out to our neighbours who know nothing of the Gospel. We do not know what lies ahead but God does. Raquel, once again must apply for another year at COMACEP, and we pray moving forward that she can continue her role that has seen many kids and volunteers became part of classes across the land of Portugal.

The harvest is plentiful, and we see that the workers are few and there are many areas that have no church and many churches that are in need of leaders/pastors. With the establishment of the Bible School in 2020, by God's will and grace, we want to see workers that feel the call, to be trained and prepared to go out and either plant or help churches for the Kingdom. We leave it all in His hands trusting that He is sovereign over all and His plans will not be frustrated.

Also some of the young people, like Diogo, who attended the youth meetings yet later moved to another city because of studies or jobs, continue to attend a church wherever they are.

These few but powerful examples of sowing and reaping through the life of these dear brothers and sisters, are blessed encouragements which help us to keep on sowing so that the harvest, in our time or later, will be plenty, even in our remote Alentejo region.



# From Germany To Portugal

## Marianna Tissen



**Hello my name is Marianna Tissen and I'm from Germany.**

I was born and raised in a Christian home which meant that from a young age my life was filled with church services, Sunday school and Christian values. And even though my parents showed and taught me everything about the Christian life, it never crossed my mind that going to Sunday services, Sunday school and dressing the right way are not enough to make me a Christian. Wasn't that what the church and my parents expected from me?

Even when I heard sermons about committing my life to Jesus I thought I would have plenty of time to think about that when I'm older. To please my parents and my church I pretended to be a child of God but nothing changed in my heart or whenever I met with friends from school. None of my friends knew what I was doing on a Sunday and I tried my best to hide it from them. When I reached my teenage years I lost all interest to attend any church service or the youth group. I stopped going to the youth group and tried to find reasons not to go to church on Sundays. I couldn't see why I should read the Bible, pray and listen to my pastor. God was a faraway idea for me. I was quite happy with my life and enjoyed my teenage years as much as possible. Far away from God.

That dramatically changed when my cousin at the age of 21 took cancer. He was diagnosed with Leukemia and it looked like there was no hope. At that stage my cousin wasn't a Christian but to my surprise his diagnosis brought him near to God. Why wasn't he angry with God? Every time I met and talked to him he was full of peace and joy. Even through treatments, pain and isolation. How was that possible? It really had an impact on me and I wanted to have that same peace and that joy.

All this brought me to eventually open the Bible and start reading it. One day my cousin was sharing on social media Psalm 90:12: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

A heart of wisdom is a heart anchored in God and tuned towards God. That meant also a life with a goal. That was the total opposite of what my life was at that stage. I realized that only God could give me peace and joy and life with a deeper meaning. It couldn't wait until I'm old or sick. God wanted to change me and my life now. He wanted to lead me out of my meaningless, sinful life and give me a new life filled with hope and peace. And that is exactly what He gave me. Everything changed on that day. When I prayed to God and confessed to Him my sins and committed my life to Him, He filled my heart with joy and hope which nothing and no one can take away from me. Shortly after that my cousin died but even though we were sad and grieved we knew that we have this hope that we will meet again in heaven.

Since then God challenged me in many different ways about mission.

Through a mission trip to Brazil, mission conferences, friends and family who encouraged me and even through my work as a Social Worker. But I had to go many steps and was amazed how God always opened up doors and led me all the way. I went through a year of Bible College at New Tribes Mission (where Jeffrey and I met), finished the CEF training and was able to serve in my church as a full time worker for a year. I am so thankful for how God put my life upside down and gave it a deeper meaning. As I said before: Everything changed. God made a difference in my life and now it is time for me to make a difference in this world.

# The Gospel Through The Bible Garden

## Mark & Judith Loney, Portugal



This year at The International Church of the Algarve it has been a particularly exciting one for me personally as on the 12th of May we had the inauguration and dedication of our Bible Garden. This has been a vision which I feel the Lord placed on my heart to develop the gardens on the property into a themed biblical garden which would take visitors on a journey through the Bible with the use of water features and around 100 Biblical plants. For many years now one of the things that God has clearly used in this particular setting in order to bring people onto the site is this aspect of the beauty of the surroundings. The vision the Lord put on my heart was to take advantage of the natural beauty and make it a key feature in the extension of the ministry and an outreach tool in reaching those who do not know the Lord. For this to take place it has meant totally re-landscaping the site and moving a huge amount of earth and stone into place. It took the guts of two years from the beginning of the project to the inauguration of the garden on the 12th of May when the founding pastor/missionary (Peter Sluimer) and Ronnie

McCracken dedicated the garden to the Lord. It has been a joy for me personally to take people on a sensory journey through the Bible showing many of the plants mentioned in the Bible like the pomegranate tree, vines, mulberry, almond, fig etc and explain the Biblical significance of these amazing plants. They all grow naturally here in the Algarve because of the similar climate to the Holy Land. We hope that if you are ever in Portugal that you come visit us and we can take you on the tour!

We have been blown away these past years at all the Lord has been doing in our midst with regards to the International and Portuguese speaking Church. The opportunities for outreach during the summer camps and activities throughout the year have been so encouraging. We feel that God is working in Portugal and the Algarve in particular is part of God's plan to win this country for Jesus. According to the Portuguese Evangelical Alliance the Evangelical population of Portugal is 0.4% of the population. The harvest truly is plentiful but the labourers are few. We have been praying much for more missionaries who will catch the vision for this country and we are so grateful to the Lord for Andrew and Kim McCormick who the Lord has burdened for this land and soon will be joining us. Please pray that God will guide them into the ministry of His choice and they will be greatly used to bring the message of Hope to the people of Portugal.

For us as a family we are experiencing the reality of time having passed us by and now our two little girls are young women and the realisation is settling in that family life will undergo a whole different dynamic in the years to come as Klara and Laura only have one more year of higher education left before they either go on to University or seek employment. We are thankful to the Lord that both are committed Christians and want to see God's will done in their lives. We pray that God will open the doors for them and their time as "Missionary Kids" will turn out to be an advantage to them and not a disadvantage in living out a full and fuelled life in the future. It is our prayer that God will use them no matter where they end up.



# NEWS from Brazil

**Pastor Luiz and Aldeniede: Passa é Fica:** We are immensely grateful to the Lord for all that He has done for us in this town. We are thankful for those who attend the meetings and those who support the work here. In May we had Mother's day with many mothers in attendance including seven unsaved. It has been a blessing to have had Pastor Jose & Eurides visit us from Manaus. We had a good attendance at the meetings and at least six unbelievers present. Please pray for the Word that was preached and for spiritual fruit in this new area. Pray for new believers that they will grow in their knowledge of the Lord. We have now acquired a piece of ground to build a new church on. Pray that God will supply the need for this



## **Pastor Junior & Christina: Nísia Floresta:**

The Lord is moving in this part of the North East of Brazil. We thank the Lord for the ongoing work here in the church in Nísia Floresta. We continue with visitation around every home in the town and with the various meetings for the church, young people and other groups. Over the Easter period, we had some very blessed days of ministry here with many of the young people taking part and sharing the Easter Message. We recently chartered a bus to take over 30 men to the Men's conference at Pastor Iran's church in Campo Redondo. In May we had special conference meetings and one lady called Leiliane trusted the Lord as her Saviour. Another young man called Abraao also trusted the Lord just recently. We continue with meetings in our other two outreaches each week. Please continue to pray for Mazapas and Pau Brazil.

## **Pastor Abraham & Pricilla: Sao Jose De Mipibu**

We are very thankful to the Lord for the opportunities of sharing the good news of the Gospel in this new area. Good numbers have been attending the meetings including members of our family. Please pray for Ezekiel and Dona Vilma.

## **Pastor Diego & Suzane: São Paulo Do Potengi & Lajes do Cabugi**

Let me tell you how is the Lord's work is in São Paulo do Potengi and Lajes do Cabugi. By the grace of God, we are working in two places now. São Paulo do Potengi is the town that we have been working in for many years. God has been blessing the work here and we are thankful for those who attend and for those who have come to know the Saviour. Please pray for Norma, Rhavi and Uriel, Rafael and Vinícius who have all trusted

the Lord recently. Please also pray for the conversion of Ninho and Jaqueline (married), Geilsa and Gislane (mother and daughter) and Ducarmo.

Along with another brother in the Lord called João Paulo we are able to conduct bible studies every Saturday in the town of Lajes do Cabugi. The Lajes' story began in September 2017 when I decided to visit three brothers who couldn't find a Bible based evangelical church to attend in their town. That





year we made 4 visits. From January to April 2018 we were able to have two visit each month and since May last year we have been doing Bible studies there every Saturday.

The Lord has supplied the finances for us to rent a house in Lajes and we conduct these studies in its garage. Jeonimo and Edeilson lead the others services on Sunday and Wednesday night. They have been very important in this work and they need our prayers.

Just last week we had a meeting with all of our mission colleagues in our church there and were able to have an outreach meeting at night. Please pray for the brother of Edeilson. He and his family are very devout Roman Catholics but allowed us to use their house for Bible Studies before we were able to rent the one we are in now.

### **Pastor Plinio: Sena Madureira, Acre**

Each weekend we have the joy of being able to conduct services out of the town of Sena and travel into the forest to some of the small congregations. It has been encouraging to see many people attending these meetings and being hungry for the Word of God. One of the Deacon's from Sena church travels with me. On the Saturday night we also had a meeting in one of the homes of the congregation. The harvest is great but the labourers are few. Please pray with us for more labourers for this great harvest field.

### **Eliana: School Ministry, Manaus, Amazonas**

For a number of weeks the schools here in Manaus were on strike because of salaries. This wasn't resolved until the 22nd May. Every week, I called the schools and talked with the teachers but they didn't know when the strike would end. Every year, Benicio Leão school changes its Director and some teachers. They are making it more difficult for me to come in and teach the Bible there. Last year, I had 20 to 25 min. to teach. This year, I spoke with the new director and showed her all my material as she wanted to know what I would be teaching the children. This year they also allowed some from other sects in to teach their religion and they were taking more than an hour, showing movies and distributing books. The teachers were not very happy with this because it was hindering their teaching. So now I was have my time reduced to only 10 minutes. At the Amine Daou school they are more relaxed and my time remains the same, both in the morning and in the afternoon. Thank you for your precious prayers. Keep praying for us.

The doctors have told me that I will need an operation on my thyroid soon. Please also pray about this.

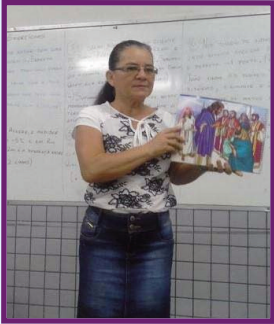
### **Altina Carvalho Do Costa: School Ministry, Manaus, Amazonas**

Praise God for his mercy and faithfulness.



*Continued on Page 13*

# NEWS from Brazil *continued*



Thank you for your prayers, because things were difficult earlier on this year with a change of Director at the Isabel Angarita School. Thankfully the new director of the school has not prevented me in teaching the Bible. She told me to spend as much time as I want in the classrooms to talk about Jesus. This is God answering your prayers! One of the students of this school comes with me to Hebron church. I collect her and bring her home each week. She gave her life to Christ.

We are also in the Joaquim Gonzaga School and again I have free course to share the message of the Bible there.

Jonas, my son who has helped me in the schools, has now moved to the town of Itapeçu where he is serving the Lord in a church. Please pray for him. He has also opportunity to teach the Word of God at the Municipal School Tereza Figueiredo de Castro in his town.

## **Pastor Carlos Souza; Manuel Urbano, Acre**

We had a very blessed Camp with 40 young people recently. We also had a number of people that visited on the Sunday. The theme of the camp was "Strong Young People who beat Evil". They enjoyed the sports and the Bible Studies. A young 17 year old man trusted the Lord as his Saviour. Please pray for Werlinsom. We thank the Lord for recent converts in the work. Pray for Elielson, Josue, Francineide, Sônia, Valéria. Luiz, Debora and Alex. We also continue with outreach to Maanaim, Moriá and Gileade. We have been renovating the church building recently

## **Pastor Iran & Socorro: Campo Redondo, NE**

We have known the Lord blessing over the past few weeks with the visit of Pastor Jose Carlos and Eurides. Jose shared the Word of God in many meetings in all of our churches over the days here. It has been a busy programme. The Lord blessed in the Salvation of souls. A young man of 13 called Lucas trusted the Lord. Please pray for him. The work in Campo Redondo continues and we ask for prayer for many more people to come to Christ. Please continue to pray for the Radio ministry here each day. Please also pray that God will put it in the heart of someone to obey His call to pastor the church in Lajes Pintatas. This is a very difficult area in the NE and no one wants to go there!

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Pastor Pastor Ageu & Riza, Feijo. Acre ~ Raimundo Nonato, Market Ministry, Manaus

The IBEE Schools, De Souza Family ~ Pastor Neto & Layze, Joao Camara, NE

Pastor José & Eurides Carlos, Manaus ~ Pastor Adriano & Maria, Várzea, NE

Pastor José Soares & Filamena, Santa Cruz, NE ~ Pastor Fabiomar & Marilene, Labrea, Acre

# Recent Visit To Brazil

## Dr Tom and Lucimar Geddis



We were encouraged on our recent 2 month visit to Brazil and at the same time saddened. It was great to find many of the teachers in the schools still using the Bible Study courses in their weekly R.E. period and to find teachers who had moved to different schools had taken copies of the courses with them and were not only using them but also sharing them with other interested teachers in their new school. We were able to arrange some Bibles where needed together with some good Gospel Literature.

The down side was in finding the atmosphere in Rio Branco very tense due to frequent armed robberies sometimes ending in murder. We were not able to visit all of the schools as there were some areas we were advised to avoid and did not leave the house after dusk.

On the personal side it was a pleasure to have Lucimar's mother, now 87 years old, come over from Tarauaca and spend some weeks with us.

Do continue to pray for the Believers and their efforts to evangelize in difficult circumstances.

Due to Lucimar's visa application, we cannot leave the UK until after April 2020. Even though we are here in NI, Lucimar is fully involved in the administration of the literature and is in constant contact with the teachers in the schools. We plan to make periodic trips to Brazil in the future God Willing. Thank you for standing with us in the work. The picture above is of some of the children receiving their new clothes from the friends here in Northern Ireland.



# Serving in Santo Andre

## Jeffrey Ferguson

We all know that, as much as we would love to, we cannot save people. It must be a personal choice, not based on works or our own futile efforts, but based on the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and our faith and trust in Him alone. Whilst we cannot save anyone, we can and we must continue to spread the good news of the gospel to those who haven't yet heard or put their trust in Him.

Coming from a strong 'Northern Ireland church culture', in many ways it's easy to reach people. Generally speaking, the people of NI, saved or unsaved, will have no problem to enter a church or a gospel hall to attend an event, whatever that event might be. However, here in Portugal, most people have never been in contact with an Evangelical Church in their lives, and so they view the church with a great deal of scepticism, and regardless of what the event might be, because it is in the evangelical church, they will be very reluctant to attend.

This proved true when we held a Quiz Night in May during the time we had the outreach team with us from NI. The idea was to hold a Quiz, invite people along, giving them an opportunity to be introduced to the church, and an opportunity to speak to our church folk and the team members. We had several rounds of questions planned, with the last round based on biblical questions, giving an opportunity for the NI team to speak more with those attending about any doubts or questions they had. Invites had gone out to people that we have contact with, and we encouraged the church folk to invite their friends and families. Praise the Lord 7 people came. We had Dutch,



Brazilian, Moroccan, and a young lady from Vietman, but sadly, no Portuguese. But we thank God that we had this opportunity to reach these people also, they too need salvation, and they too can be saved regardless of their nationality. The NI team were fantastic, and we really thank God for their help as they each joined a table and were able to talk to the visitors, and during the last round were able to help with the biblical questions. After the quiz was over everyone stayed behind to talk further and enjoyed tea, coffee and cake. We didn't just run this event in order to have a fun night in the church, but to use it as an opportunity to make people think about some biblical things, and to turn their minds towards God. One couple we invited said they wanted to make sure and win, and presuming there would be bible questions in the quiz spent a night in the house with their bible thinking of potential questions!

We trust and pray that as we serve alongside the church in Santo Andre, that together we can see many more souls reached with the gospel, and people putting their faith and trust in Christ. It is certainly not an easy work in this area of the Alentejo, many people who come to the church bring a lot of baggage with them, due to problems and difficulties they have encountered throughout their lives. But we know that in Mark 2:17, when Jesus was questioned by the Scribes and Pharisees as to why he was eating with the publicans and tax collectors (v16), he responded by saying "they that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance". We are thankful that the church in Santo Andre has been here in this town for over 30 years as a light and witness in a dark land, and many people have found Jesus in this place through the faithful ministry of Aroldo and Emmanuelle Areas, and others before, and I ask you to pray that as we serve together as "the Alentejo Team" that we can continue to make the gospel known in this place and throughout the whole of the Alentejo region.

I would also like to take the opportunity to announce my engagement to Marianna Tissen, from Germany, whom I met at Bible College. We have been together for 2 years and feel that the Lord has led us together as a couple, and as we take this next step together we believe that it is God's will for our lives. Marianna too has a great desire to serve the Lord, having also completed bible college and also the children's ministry leadership course in Kilchzimmer with Child Evangelism Fellowship. Having a background in Social Work proved very useful when she worked with her church for a period of time as their Children's worker, and had the opportunity to work among the needy refugee children in the area, many of whom were coming from a Muslim background. It has been great to have Marianna live here locally since October last year, and she has been helping alongside me and the team here in the different ministries. We pray that God can use us together as a couple here in Portugal and that we can be of service to Him in the months and years ahead.





Have a look at our new Acre Website

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

# ACRE ANNUAL DINNER Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

in Lisburn Congregational Church Hall (Kindly Granted)

at 7:00 pm

Special visit from Pastor Herbert, Hebron Church, Manaus

Singing from Miss Nichole Backus

*For booking please see separate booking form.*

## Special 3 night Autumn Break

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3 nights bed & breakfast and 3 evening meals  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

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Special singers each night

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