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# LOVE-LINK

May 2011

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*"It is high time to wake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" Rom 13:11*

Dear friends,

Brazil is a land of huge contrast. To highlight this we want to start by talking about two ladies we know. They are both called Nazaré. Nazaré (1) has a difficult life. She lives in what we in the west would describe as grinding poverty. She has no home to call her own - every night she sleeps on the floor of relatives in a makeshift wooden house. She still cannot read or write. Last year she became a Christian and is currently attending baptismal classes at church. Her smile is lovely but behind the smiles lies much suffering as she lives with a man who constantly drinks their money away, and when drunk is aggressive. Sometimes there simply isn't any money for food. She also battles with leukaemia. Her teenage daughter Larissa shows some spiritual interest but is always being invited to drinking parties at the weekend so is on and off in her attendance. Nazaré is as thin as a pin due to her health problems.

Nazaré 1 at our house



The second Nazaré couldn't have a more different life style. She lives on the Ponta Negra (the main tourist area and plushiest part of Manaus) in a huge state-of-the-art mansion. She has no need to work as her Portuguese husband is the owner of a large chain of shoe shops. Her house is a buzz of activity as she employs a cook, a child minder and a gardener to clean her swimming pool and tend the grounds. She attends a traditional Pentecostal church and tells me she anoints her husband, who is not a believer, with oil at night when he is asleep! She wears no makeup or jewellery and never trousers - only dresses and skirts believing this to be right. But she has also just paid out for expensive plastic surgery after her pregnancy to remove all her excess fat! She is a very generous person and from her home there are spectacular sunsets every night overlooking the river.

Those two women are a window into life in Brazil. It is a land of tremendous natural beauty, terrible injustice, often spiritual confusion and a real mixture of people! One minute we are in the home of the poorest of the poor, the next in the wealthy mansion of the rich. Being a missionary and foreigner in Brazil gives us access to all classes of people.

***Pray we would use the opportunities to testify of Christ to all – rich or poor – for the Lord is the maker of them all!***

## LILY OF THE VALLEY

The Lord is giving us real encouragements. We had a good anniversary service with Pastor Nilo preaching on the theme of "The Good Shepherd". Sunday night saw a full church and the gospel was clearly presented. Since then we have had Leida added to the membership and we have Nazaré (1) and three young people, Amoz, Loide and Arlison attending baptismal classes. Andrew is really enjoying studying with them.



Lúcio the seminary student is becoming a good preacher and very helpful in serving at São Pedro as well. Josué and his fiancée are currently helping at a congregation on the other side of the city and gaining useful experience as they prepare for marriage in June. It was Mother's day on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May which again saw a full church and especially many women. The young people sang and the ladies all received presents which is very cultural here. They seemed to really appreciate it!

However having said all that we have informed the church that it is now time for them to look for a Brazilian pastor.

Andrew has had various invites and opportunities for wider ministry which he has turned down over the years and we feel that it is now time to have a wider ministry. ***Pray for the church to be led to the right pastor and for the right timing in it all.***

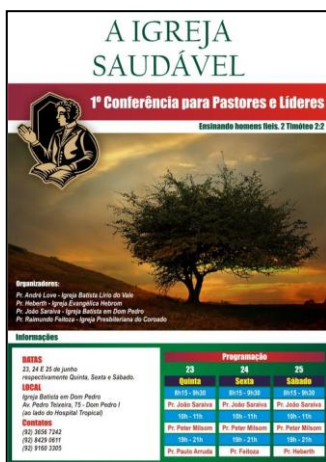
Gian and Jacqueline are also very much on our hearts. They are the military couple who have been with us for two years now. They are talking about separation. They have three lovely boys who are very upset about it all. Andrew and Clovis have been to counsel them. ***Please pray for Gian and Jacqueline at this difficult and painful time.***



## SÃO PEDRO

Mother's day also saw 13 ladies at Sao Pedro for the evening service. Please pray for more adults to strengthen the work there and for Álvaro and Lazanira to be blessed in the ministry. Their base of contacts is widening as they live and visit in the area, and they are busy planning for the church anniversary.

## PASTORS AND LEADERS CONFERENCE



Together with three Brazilian pastors Andrew is busy organising a leadership conference for June. Peter Milsom from UFM will be one of the speakers and the theme is "A Healthy Church" looking at revival, mission and the work of the Holy Spirit. The response so far has been encouraging. For every city pastor we would like to see a pastor from the interior attend- so we are in contact with those we know working in interior places like Tefé/ Alvarães (36 hours up river from Manaus) and Parintins (24 hours). Pastors will need help with travel costs. We have said that if they can't find the money to attend we can help with return fares. We estimate this will be about 20 pounds per pastor. If you would like to help pastors to attend the conference **please send designated gifts to UFM ear marked for these pastors.** It is quite lonely being in ministry and it has been on our hearts for sometime to bring pastors from across the denominational boundaries together for communion and fellowship. Having lived in the interior for three years we know that it is so often these folks who most lack resources, stimulus, fellowship and teaching. We are hoping to be able to sell or give good books away too. **Please do pray for the Lord to bless this conference time together – for the right number of pastors to attend and especially for the speakers in their preparation.**

## SCHOOL

Gordan's time in the school is coming to an end in June. We have really enjoyed having him live just next door to us, and the girls now know what it is to have older brothers- first Krystian and now Gordon! **Pray for Gordan as he will have to job hunt in Scotland or decide to return to Brazil – to know God's leading.** He has helped Maria especially in Hannah's absence. He has covered vital science subjects and the challenge is for Pamela to now find replacements. **Please pray for the on going needs of the school – history, geography or physics teachers all required in the high school!** Jenny has finished teaching AS English and was quite emotional saying goodbye to her students who now sit their exams. The lads were all Christians so it was a privilege to teach them. She has a fresh challenge to help those struggling with English and continues to teach Bible as well.



## FAMILY NEWS

We continue to praise God for the way Hannah has coped so well with separation from the family. She is being blessed in her studies and would value prayer for her AS exams which finish by the 28<sup>th</sup> May. She enjoyed a history trip to Berlin as she has been learning all about the war. The trip helped to break up this year into more bearable segments. We are so looking forward to being reunited with her though- it seems a long time since we were with her at Christmas, and we are very thankful for skype!

Please do pray for our parents as they face various health issues in their old age. **Jenny and Maria would ask for travelling mercies as they fly to the UK on 27<sup>th</sup> June and return with Hannah on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> July.** They have never done this journey on their own before! Pray that Jenny would be a good support to her parents at this time. And pray for Andrew, Sarah and Amy as they hold the fort here!

### Hannah's visits to Brazil

Please note, if you would like to help with the cost of Hannah coming out to visit us please send gifts to UFM and ear-marked for her trip.

With our love in Christ,

and sincere thanks for all your kind support,

Andrew & Jenny, Hannah, Maria, Sarah and Amy Love

If you would like to receive any more prayer letters or notify me of any change of either postal or email address, please contact me at: 35 Badlow Close, Erith, Kent, DA8 3SA, or, [rosemary@northendbaptistchurch.org](mailto:rosemary@northendbaptistchurch.org). Or phone: 01322 338879 (home) 01322 341830 (Church) 07845237866 (Mobile). Thank you Rosemary Morgan.