

JAMES AND HÓDES NASH

MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – PO Box 334 – Colonial Heights, VA 23834

brasilnash@aol.com

Church phone: (804) 526-0981

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Dear Church Family,

It is Sunday afternoon and we have some sad news. We were in Bezerros this morning in Sunday School; the work there is having problems. The church that started the mission is having some problems and will probably close the work. This hurts us since we have helped in the work since it started. Because of the situation we will not take over the work but let it close. There is no man available to move to the city and take over the work, and it will suffer until they have a family living there. I have talked to some of the men from our church here in Caruaru and they assured us that the church in Caruaru will do what it can until a man surrenders to the Lord's call. For several months we will bring them to the church here, and later reopen in another area.

This past Friday night while some of the men were out on visitation, Hódes was practicing with the ladies singing group. A lady we have been witnessing to for over three years asked if she could listen to the practice. After the practice, Hódes once again opened God's Word and explained salvation to Dete. When I arrived from visitation, Dete was in tears, and as I quietly listened to Hódes talking to her, Dete trusted Christ as her personal Savior. After a few minutes of initial discipleship, she bowed her head and thanked Christ for dying for her and being her Substitute. Afterwards, Hódes and I talked about the reasons it takes the people so long to trust in Christ. They are not dumb, they have been so blinded by religion and have difficulty removing the trash and accepting the Truth. We see the truth of Matthew 23:15 more real every day.

We ended the month of January in an eight day Bible Conference in one of the churches in Recife. We have several conferences scheduled through the end of the year. A missionary friend will be with us next week for a four day conference.

We have several men studying in the Bible Institute desiring to learn the Bible to be better witnesses. We need some God-called men for the ministry. We need a man for the main work here in Caruaru, one for Bezerros, and have two other cities where we could start churches if we had the men. During January we had four of our students taking the Wednesday night services, and we are seeing success in their teaching ability.

Apparently the culture of the people in our area, which is geared around the huge open air market, leads the people to work extremely hard the last three months of the year, working almost day and night. Then the first two months of the year they take a break, even from church. We have difficulty accepting this attitude among saved people and will continue to teach them to put their priority in Christ.

Prayer requests: 1) Salvation – Wellington, Edson (Dete's husband), Francisco, Clay, Ednaldo e Val. Pray for God to call men for the ministry and that they will be submissive to His call. Pray for the work in Bezerros and Belo Jardim. Pray for God to send us a man for the work here in Caruaru. We must start other churches and it is past time for the church here to have a Brazilian pastor. 2) Reconciliation: We thought that after four years the two men that worked with us would be making reconciliation, but it appears their repentance is false and are using us. Pray that their hearts will be broken and true repentance will soon come.

We realize we must return to the states and visit the churches that are supporting us, but we must have someone to relieve us here. Until we have the opportunity to visit, please accept our letters in thanksgiving for your prayer and financial support.

In Christ

James & Hódes

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