



PIONEERING

VOLUME 56 ANNUAL 2010

"Pioneering for Christ in the Regions Beyond." 2 Corinthians 10:16

"Pioneering" Marches On

Fifty-five years ago, the publication *Pioneering* began. Since the first writing of the news on the field of Brazil, much has happened. Missionaries have come and gone. Different board members gave encouragement to their missionaries. The missionaries' children went on to have families and ministries of their own. Beloved friends, family members, missionaries and board members have already been called to Heaven. Others joined the mission family, and the field of southern Brazil has extended to other states, cities and towns.



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NS/PF

"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account" —Phil. 4:17

The **National Student/Pastor Fund** of the BIM has helped pastors and students of the Thompson Theological Bible Seminary for over 40 years. The Fund was established back in 1968 when the Seminary began with missionaries Robert and Alice Thompson. The original intent was to help godly men and women to get their theological education and supply pastors their salaries as they entered the ministry. Praise God for this most worthy endeavor!

Countless theological students and pastors have benefited with this project. Over the years, the Brazilian church has greatly increased their part in helping students attend Seminary. They have also taken over the responsibility of supporting their pastors. Presently the amount this fund contributes to the Thompson Seminary is less than 5% of the total budget of the Seminary. We thank God for supplying the rest through the Brazilian church, individual students paying, and the Thompson Educational Center. The TEC promotes validation diploma and graduate courses. Extension courses are also offered. Several surrounding cities have also supplied much needed funds.

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"Até Mais... Until later..."

We want to thank the *Brazil Inland Mission* for the opportunity we had to serve the Lord in *Vitória da Conquista* for nearly three years. It was our great honor to minister alongside David and Debbie Thompson and the pastors of the churches there, to see lives changed and souls saved.

We are sad that we felt the need to leave Brazil at this time. We had really thought that we could serve there for many years; yet we know that the needs of our family during this season of life can be better met at home in the U.S. Our children, ages 16, 15, 13, 12 and 7, needed more educational opportunities than what we were able to provide them with by home-schooling. We do hope to one day return to Brazil, but for now, we are serving the Lord in our hometown of Monticello, Arkansas.

We will always remember the love of the Thompsons and their unwavering commitment to reach the lost and disciple believers. We'll also never forget the love of the Brazilian Pastors and of the many friends we came to know there. Everyone truly made us feel like family and they will always have a special place in our hearts.

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"Pioneering" Marches On, cont.

Through the years, *Pioneering* is the one means of communication that connected us and reached many who were interested and praying for the ministry in Brazil. There have been several editors of the publication: Alan Dietz Cornelius (1955-1969), Wilfred Blake (1969-1972), Alice Thompson (1973-1985), David Thompson (1983-1995), and finally Bob and Alice Thompson (1996-2009.) Among those who helped in the mailing of the publication were: Alan D. Cornelius, David Kreider, Mrs. Peter (Belva) Skanse, John and Sue Roden and, lastly, Bob and Alice Thompson.

Currently, missionaries David Thompson, George Harmon, John Harmon and their families join forces with the Brazilian brethren. Schools, churches and two seminaries function to this day in the states of Paraná, Mato Grosso, São Paulo, Goiás, Minas Gerais and Bahia. Through *Pioneering* we are able to follow the progress of the different fields and people for whom we pray. It has been a glorious fifty-five years to the glory of God. As the editor of *Pioneering* changes, may the Lord continue to bless those who get out the printed word in *Pioneering* and on the web site -- as we continue "*Pioneering in the regions beyond.*" - Alice Thompson

WELCOME, CRISTINA SMITH!

Walking in my Mom's footsteps is not an easy task...but it is one that I do not face alone! Mom (Alice Thompson) and I have worked together for years; as far back as I can remember, Mom and I always worked together on church projects, youth group activities, planned services, and ministered together in Brazil and churches across the USA. Mom was my first teacher, as I was home-schooled while in Brazil. Her dedication to God's work is a great example to me - even



now, in her "retired" years. I have the unique privilege of living close to Mom due to her move to Waukon in July of this year. I look forward to many more years of serving God alongside my dear Mom. Serving as a Board Director of the *B.I.M., Inc.* and now editor of *Pioneering* are responsibilities I take seriously. I covet your prayers through this transition and may God continue to use this publication for His Glory!
- Cristina Smith

NS/PF, cont. Our Seminary continues with over 35 students this year. We have seen since 2003 over 111 graduate and about 80% are in fulltime Christian service. As a mission, the BIM considers this a wonderful way to invests in lives that will impact thousands of other lives for Christ!

The NS/PF presently also helps several pastors. One example is missionaries and Seminary graduates, Adriano and his wife Fabiana. Both presently help with three different congregations. On Saturdays they travel 40 miles, one way, to the *Estiva Congregation*. They have helped the very needy with food and supplies and brought the Gospel to this needy region. Decisions for Christ are made regularly. Adriano also ministers to the congregation at *Vila America*. They meet twice a week and he does much visitation during the week. Adriano also coordinates the construction of the new fellowship hall at *Vila America!* During the week he also preaches at the *Morada dos Pássaros III Congregation* helping lead the prayer meetings and home Bible studies. And this is just one of many graduates that have benefited from the NS/PF and serving God presently - Brazilians reaching Brazilians for Christ!

Praise God for the NS/PF! Thank you for contributing and praying for students and pastors that are benefited through this fund! May God reward you! - David Thompson **If you are interested in supporting this fund please make check out to BIM designated for NS/PF - and specify which field.**

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"Até Mais...Útil Later"

We also want to say a special thank you to those who financially supported us and prayed for us while we were in Brazil. None of the things we did would have been possible without our partners in this ministry and we will always be grateful for their love and support.

We will continue to pray for the work in Brazil and for the churches that are doing their part to reach the lost for Christ. May God continue to bless the ministries of the *Brazil Inland Mission*.

"Com muito amor" (with much love), Dave and Tina Bostian



Taken at their Farewell Service in Brazil



HARMONS ON HOME ASSIGNMENT!

Missionaries George and Eunice are back in the USA through February of 2011 and available to present their ministry at churches or individuals. This wonderful family of six is about to grow! Two of their children are marrying fine Brazilians: Nathan with Ana Cubas and Evely with Anderson. Tim and Melanie are teaching English and also waiting on the Lord for their future. On the field, they remain very busy with *Harmony Camp*. They are praying to reach at least 80 campers for the weekly camps. They also continue their involvement with the *Araçatuba Bible Church* through Bible Study groups, ministry with couples and the training of leaders. George also teaches at the Seminary and is asking the Lord to increase the enrollment by 20 new students in 2011. Pray for the return of day classes and that the evening classes would continue to grow. George continues with his very popular Christian radio program as well. Pray for this dear family and that they would enjoy their time back in the USA as well!

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(L-R): Tim, Melanie, Nathan, George, Evely & Eunice (Nice)

TAIOBEIRAS CHURCH IN MINAS GERAIS



Pastor Dionísio was installed as the new pastor of the *Taiobeiras Bible Church* last year. He has a real heart for evangelism and missions. They are preparing to purchase a motorcycle so that evangelistic teams can reach out to difficult places with the Gospel. As a result of such compassion for the lost, this church has recently surpassed 50 members and is going to baptize eight more in believer's baptism this fall.

Calvary Bible Church in Vitória da Conquista – Pastor Hartman is reporting salvations of souls and growth in S.S. enrollment. The evening services continue being well attended. Several new believers will be obeying Christ in believer's baptism this fall.

Morada dos Pássaros III Congregation
 Pastor José Pereira reports that over 110 people are attending S.S.! In November five more believers were baptized. The meeting place is completely finished and looks beautiful. This church is also used as the Chapel of the Thompson Seminary. This congregation is also reaching out the surrounding communities with evangelism.



URBIS I BIBLE CHURCH



This is the church where missionaries David & Debbie Thompson minister. They are sad to share the church has experienced some difficult times lately due to the necessity of church discipline. They ask for prayer and the Lord's guidance during this time. The church has purchased land for a new congregation to begin next year at a new housing project nearby! Four believers desire believer's baptism. The church has started a new children's church program for evening services. There has been an increase to 42 people on Sunday evening services.

David & Debbie Thompson



Looking ahead...the Thompsons will be on Home Assignment May – September of 2011. They are looking for a vehicle (loaned or used purchase) for those 5 months. If you are able to help them at all, please email them at daviddebbie3@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Find us on the web...

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PIONEERING

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Dr. Alan Dietz Cornelius, former BIM Board Member, passed away April 18, 2010 at the age of 98. Dietz served in many capacities since 1955 on the BIM: Vice-Chairman, Editor of *Pioneering*, and in later years, Secretary. Dietz was dedicated to serving God with a passion for missions. For many years, he drove from Springfield, IL to attend board meetings until he reached the age of mid-to-late 80's and was no longer able to make the trip. He enjoyed writing and occasionally handed out copies of stories and jokes at board meetings. We express our sincerest condolences to the family and thank God for Dietz's faithful service to God on the *BIM, Inc.*

FROM THE BIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



Year-End Giving: The *Robert & Alice Thompson Endowment Fund* is for helping national pastors/students from the Thompson Bible Theological Seminary in Vitória da Conquista, Brazil. The *Rev. Charles and Ruth Harmon Scholarship Fund* is for helping students at the Bible Seminary of Evangelization in Araçatuba, São Paulo.

If you would like to make a donation towards the *Rev. Robert & Alice Thompson Endowment Fund* and/or the *Rev. Charles & Ruth Harmon Scholarship Fund*, please make checks payable to the **Brazil Inland Mission, Inc.** and designate appropriately.

Thank you for your support.