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BRAZIL INLAND MISSION, INC.

# PIONEERING PIONEERING

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

BRAZIL INLAND MISSION, INC. • P. O. Box 1152 • Wheaton, IL 60189-1152 • (616) 677-6069 • aeforsgren1@juno.com

## NOTES FROM JOHN AND ANA

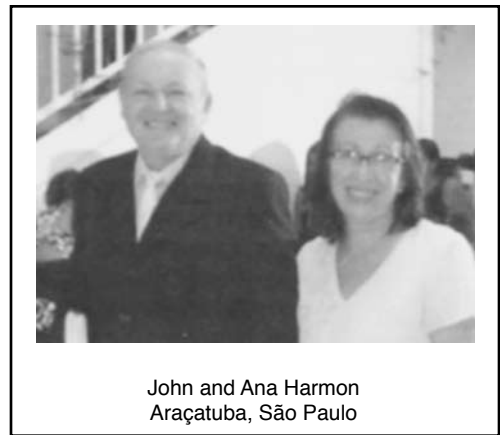
**A Two Weeks Adventure.** During their January break from seminary classes, John and Ana Harmon had a good 38-hour missionary trip from Araçatuba, São Paulo, to Nova Olinda in the state of Maranhão, northern Brazil. There they visited dear friends and graduates from the SBE seminary—Raphael and Raquel—in the starting of a new church in Santa Luzia. While visiting there for two weeks, they held many meetings and conferences. The Lord gave sufficient health throughout their journey, and they were pleased to visit also the brethren in Goiás, Goiânia. In a later visit, they also visited friends and son John, Jr. in São Paulo.



### Boa Vista Bible Church.

John now has more time with the church ministry in preaching, teaching, and helping in every way -- including driving the van. There are many converts to Christ, constant growth, a good group of men, and recent baptisms. Ana is Sunday School Superintendent and teaches the women of the church. Daniel is the praise team leader and youth pastor. Hadassa and Rebeca are great helpers in different positions in the church.

**Discipleship** John and Ana find discipleship classes to be a large part of the ministry. Plans are made for fifty to be disciples in ten studies.



John and Ana Harmon  
Araçatuba, São Paulo

**Bible Seminary of Evangelism (SBE).** There were changes this year in the schedule of the seminary. Classes are now held only at night. Daniel, the John Harmon's son-in-law, is taking over more of the duties in administration and teaching. Ana is no longer the administrator in the SBE kitchen. Both Harmon families teach in the seminary.

## ON OUR WAY TO BRAZIL .....

### THE DAVID THOMPSON FAMILY

Missionaries David and Debbie Thompson and Jonathan are returning August 10th to Brazil for their sixth term on the field of Brazil. They will return to their home and ministry in Vitória da Conquista, Bahia, in preaching, teaching, church planting, counseling, training and seminary class ministries. JoAnna will remain for her second year of studies at Calvary Bible College, and Andrew will work in Kansas City, MO.



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AUGUST 10, 2008

## THE DAVID THOMPSON'S

**Important Date Change.** David Thompson, Debbie and Jonathan have their passage for August 10, 2008, for their return to missionary service in Vitória da Conquista, Bahia, Brazil.

**Vila América, Vitória da Conquista, Bahia.** David Thompson reports that the new ministry in the suburb of Vila América is growing, and a Christian who attends services is building an addition on his house for the small congregation. Pastor Adriano and wife Fabiana have done a very good work there. David and Debbie will preach and teach to help the new congregation to become a permanent church body. Both couples hope to work together as a team to establish the new church quickly. David hopes to turn that ministry fully over to Pastor Adriano by the end of this next term. In the mean-time, David and Debbie will start teaching Bible in the public school, across from the current congregation, and teach in the (STBT) Thompson seminary.

**Great Conference.** The annual conference of CAIB (Association of Bible Churches) met at Harmony Camp on May 22–24, 2008, and was hosted by the Boa Vista Bible Church. About 700 were present for the three-day conference of teaching, preaching, workshops, planning, spiritual uplift, and fun.

**The Thompson Theological Bible Seminary.** The STBT seminary in Vitória da Conquista, Bahia, began the school year in 2008 with 57 students, some part-time. There are several seminary extension classes in other areas. Pastor José Pereira is the director of the seminary, and pastors the Morada congregation that meets in the seminary chapel. The congregation has doubled attendance in one year.

**A new grade school,** grades 1–4, is now meeting during the daytime hours in the STBT seminary building in Vitória da Conquista, Bahia, with nearly 100 students. It is yet another opportunity for witness in that large community surrounding the (STBT) seminary. Pastor José Pereira is the Director, and several wives of pastors are helping in the ministry.



Fabiana, Pastor Adriano, Children

“There is nothing that brings greater joy on earth.”



Missionary George Harmon and Edinelson and Jonathan, both saved on March 31, 2008, the same day that the mowing tractor arrived! We were praying for them. After explaining the bridge illustration, they prayed, accepting the Lord Jesus. What a joy! There is nothing that brings greater joy on earth.

## Learning with the Bostian Family

**Learning in Fun and Fellowship.** The Bostian family went on its first retreat with Calvary Bible Church at a beautiful location outside of the city of Vitória da Conquista next to a lake. Pastor Hartman of the Calvary Bible Church, Pastor Pereira, and Germínio Viera (a layman) preached respectively on these themes: Close to God: in the Word, in Prayer, and in Fellowship. The worship services and the fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ was truly a special blessing. The children enjoyed playing soccer and swimming in the pool as well.

**Learning and Serving.** We are continuing to learn so—many things and to meet new people. Dave has continued to teach English at one of the English schools in the city, and he is enjoying that. Tina has begun teaching English to the children at the public school (grades 1–4) that now meets at the Thompson Seminary—a half-hour class per grade each week, but the children are eager learners. We also run into people at the supermarket and on the streets who want to learn English, and we are preparing classes for the youth and adults as an outreach to the community.

**Learning to Look Ahead.** Language learning is at the forefront of our minds. We study the Portuguese language about four hours per day—vocabulary, grammar, and reading all kinds of texts. We learn by interacting daily with people in church, at the seminary, on the bus, in the supermarket, the children with their friends in sports, and with our neighbors and new friends. We hope to work with a seminary couple in a youth outreach using sports, Christian movies, and youth Bible studies.

**Learning to Trust in Special Times.** Although we have had moments of home-sickness, we truly feel the love of the people here, and they have been a big blessing in our lives.

**Thankfulness.** We are grateful to have so many friends and family members praying for us and supporting us.



David and Tina Bostian

“We truly feel the love of the people here. We’re grateful to have so many praying for us.”



The Bostian Children

—David and Tina Bostian

## John Luke – Example of a Changed Life That Affects Generations

A cancelled meeting because of heavy rains resulted in the salvation of **John Luke**. He and another boy were waiting under a store front awning for the rain to stop. While a team of young people from the Bible Institute (SBE) prayed in the van, Elias and I witnessed to them. Later that evening, I led **John Luke** to accept Jesus. One year later, at 17, he studied in the Bible Institute, and consequently met his future wife, Dilma. Both studied at the New Tribes boot camp and in linguistic training. Their first son Samuel was born, and the young family went to work with the Krao Indians in northern Brazil. They waited twelve years for the first conversion to Christ. All three of their children, Samuel, Daniel, and Raquel, eventually studied at the Bible Institute, found their "other half" there, and all became missionaries in Brazil. **What an example of a changed life for the glory of God!**



–George Harmon

## Thompson's Home Assignment

**At Calvary Bible College.** Our one year of Home Assignment as Missionaries-in-Residence at Calvary Bible College (Belton, MO) ended in July 2008. It gave David, however, a rich opportunity to work with 267 CBC alumni in 53 countries during this year. That great vision of worldwide missions made it possible for David



to help teach Brazilian leaders and leaders in the future as to what God is doing around the world. His newly-learned knowledge in administration may also be beneficial to the STBT seminary in Vitória da Conquista, Bahia. We trust that many

of the missionaries, godly men and women on the faculty and the students at CBC may have been encouraged in missions. We give thanks for that privilege of ministry!

**With Family and Friends.** We are thankful that David's sister Anita and family lived only a few short blocks away. Jonathan enjoyed his four cousins, and the frequent fellowship was sweet. Debbie was much involved in keeping everyone on their different schedules, teaching at an after-school Bible Club, helping at Blue Ridge Christian School, and in the church with women's groups. JoAnna lived with us while she studied her freshman year at CBC. We were close enough to see our oldest son Andrew occasionally while he studied in Minnesota, and lived with his paternal grandparents, Bob and Alice Thompson. We were privileged to see Debbie's parents frequently, and also to help celebrate David's dad's 80th birth-day. We praise the Lord for the many weekend contacts we had with relatives, supporting churches and many friends.

–David and Debbie Thompson

**"One reason for Home Assignment is for missionaries to re-focus and to re-evaluate their ministry. This is a vital part of a missionary's life in order for him or her to return to the field spiritually refreshed and renewed."**

–Cristina Smith, BIM Secretary



**No More Walking!** George Harmon praises the Lord for a good riding mower to mow the huge grounds at Harmony Camp. What used to take a week of work with an electric walking mower now can be done in two days!



George Harmon  
Eunice, Mélanie, Évely, Tim  
Araçatuba, São Paulo  
Ministering at  
HARMONY CAMP  
HARMONY BIBLE CHURCH  
SBE SEMINARY

## Legacy of Ruth Harmon

My mother, Ruth Bower Harmon, has lived in the John Harmon home for over two years. On May 13, 2008, she was 94 years old. Often I spend time lying on a couch next to her. For over six months her mind has lost the existence of time and in general of things that happen now. She calls me at times: "gram," "pa," "daddy," "Chuck" (her late husband), and maybe "John." In her mind, I belong to a good group of people. She does not suffer, and always has a smile and a "thank you." I know that the Lord keeps her here for our sake and always draws us closer to the Lord. She was always an unselfish person.

I take her around the seminary campus three times a week in her wheel chair. As she passes the two Volkswagen vans, she asks me about them. I tell her, "Mom, these are the two vans that you bought for the school and the ministry." We enter the library, and she sees all those

books and then asks many questions. My memory runs to the first books that we had then in our library, bought by her. I remember her putting plastic covers on the new books and stamping the Institute's name on them. The library was in a 12x15 foot room --and how exciting that was then! How she loved books, and especially missionary biographies! How I wish she could appreciate the large library that we now have with so many books, tables, chairs, computers, tapes plus a TV room for all types of communications.

I would not, however, trade the people that were trained in her times because there are missionaries and pastors in almost all of the states of Brazil and in many countries. As I spend time caring for Mom, I just plead with the Lord that I may be a small portion of what her ministry was—and continues to be.

–John Harmon



John Harmon  
Ruth Bower Harmon  
Araçatuba, São Paulo

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*Editors and Circulation Editors*

22400 190th Street  
Long Prairie, MN 56347  
E-mail: [ratom@rea-alp.com](mailto:ratom@rea-alp.com)  
Phone: (320) 732-3662

[www.brazilinlandmission.org](http://www.brazilinlandmission.org)

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## WELCOME TO THE BRAZIL INLAND MISSION, INC.

The BIM Board of Directors is pleased to announce the acceptance of Rev. Benjamin Challadurai (Moody Bible Institute) to the Board of Directors and Mr. Stephen Hosler as the new BIM bookkeeper. Two new members were accepted on the Advisory Board: Dr. Elwood H. Chipchase (current President: Calvary Bible College, Kansas City, MO) and Rev. Frank "Joe" Everett, retired pastor after years of faithful ministry.



*Reaching out to the beloved Brazilian brethren*

*"Serving Christ is all that really matters  
for time and eternity."*

### EDITORIAL

Jesus said, "I am coming soon," (Revelation 22:12). He also said, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel, (Mark 16:15). The two statements are joined together. One is prophetic, and the other is a command. The urgency involved is in reaching precious souls for Christ. Reaching into the divine nature of God, we see Jesus dying on a cruel cross. We also see His God-love reaching out today through all those who believe. We must not fail Jesus! We must shake off any sin, and GO! PREACH! TEACH! SING! MEDITATE on God's Word! GIVE! My wife and I are retired from active service on the field of Brazil, but still we must press on, even to be more immersed in Christ, never, no, never stopping to serve Christ even though our bodies slow down a bit. Serving Christ is all that really matters for time and eternity!

—Robert R. Thompson  
BIM Missionary-at-Large