



JIM & RHONDA SHAW

YOUR MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL

Serving with Baptist Mid-Missions
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Oops!

We had written a letter to you back in December 2016, but it got lost in the shuffle of “year-end” busyness and never got “launched” into cyber space! So, we are finally here!

THANK YOU!

Thank you all so very much for the special love gifts and persistent prayer and generous, continuous support this past year of 2016. We praise God for each one of you that make up the Amazon mission team!

CHURCH UPDATES

We have seen a great firming up of our four churches in Santarem (Bela Vista, Maranata, Peniel and Vitoria), especially in the area of our teens and children’s works. It is so good to see God’s servants stepping up to get involved in their churches. We had 5 junior girls and 2 junior boys to trust Christ this year as a result of our children’s club at Maranata. We call the club “Faithful Investigators of the Bible” (F.I.B.). They held a VBS back in July 2016 and we gained 5 new children as a result of this effort. They represent 5 prospective families for the church as well. The church leaders held another VBS in January 2017 and it went very well, but with less attendance than last year’s.

We presently have 15 in the Source of Light Bible program. One former family of the Peniel church is finishing the 4th series at present and they live 40 miles away to our south in Henry Ford’s old Brazilian town of Bel Terra.

DISAPPOINTMENTS, BUT VICTORIES!

This has been a year of disappointments as well. We have had several disciplinary problems in the various churches. We are grateful however, to see God working in their lives and the privilege to come along side of them and help them get back on God’s path. It has helped some others in the church to gain a “healthy” fear as well!

We welcomed into the Maranata church recently two teen boys who were involved in charismatic works for some time. They began to see the falsities in such churches and began looking for a church who held to the Scriptures. We have spent weeks re-orientating them in the Word of God. It took some real courage and obedience to God for them to separate from their peers and the chidings of their former leaders!

How You Can Pray:

- Four churches that still need national pastors
- Pray for much more fruit for God’s glory as a result of the VBS and Source of Light study efforts.
- New church attendees
- Remodeling projects
- Rhonda’s Dad – Rudy Waters
- Jim’s Parents – G.E. & Jean Shaw
- Our Children & Grandchildren



Vacation Bible School



Praise!

- Five new children at Maranata.
- Two teen boys at Maranata.
- Fifteen in the Source of Light Bible program.
- Spending time with our Family!
- Successful Youth Camp!

CONTACT US:

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Youth Camp during
Caranaval time,
February 28-March 01.

The theme for Camp was:
"Really, What is Your Life?"
(James 4:14)

In spite of the rains and the
river being so high, Camp
was a great success! Later
this month the young
people will have a special
meeting to testify about
what they gained from the
studies.



REMODELING PROJECTS

We are in the slow process of remodeling some of our buildings in three of the churches. We are putting in security bars and new doors and windows in the Bela Vista church and just put "razor wire" on the back wall of the parsonage! (3 break-ins in two years--we lost track of the break-ins at the church!) We also installed a metal door on the storage building. We want to begin the foundational work for a new parsonage at the Maranata work; and a brick wall and remodeling at the Peniel work in this year! There is yet so much work to do physically and spiritually.

FAMILY UPDATE

Many of you are aware of the home going of Rhonda's mother, Eunice Waters, on September 26, 2016. We thank each of you for your kindness shown and the condolences you expressed during this time. Rhonda will continue to be the caregiver for her 92-year-old father, Rudy Waters, in Jacksonville, FL. Being a caregiver is a tough "job" but the rewards are immeasurable.

Jim's folks continue to deal with their health issues as well. Their pastor and Jim's two brothers have been doing a great job of keeping a watchful eye on them. We were able to fly out to Kansas and spend ten days with them in February in order to evaluate their situation and lend a hand. Please keep lifting them up to God's throne, as Jim's dad is in the hospital as we write!

We were able to spend some time with Stacy and family up in NC. Pray for her and Matt, her husband, as they deal with health problems with their children. Dakota has been suffering with some health issues for a few months and only this week was she diagnosed with POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome). Pray that the treatments will help. Dawson recently hurt his knee and is in physical therapy for that. Donovan's ear surgery went well and we will know this week if he can be released to play sports. Marley has had a double ear infection and an allergy to the antibiotic which caused a terrible rash. We also spent a couple of days with Shelly in Knoxville, TN and enjoyed our time with her. We were able to have lunch with three of Jim's brothers, a rare occasion and a blessing to unite again. We cherish your prayers for all these!

CHALLENGE!

We are challenging the churches in Santarem for the year 2017 to consider that this may well be our last year on earth! What will we do in our limited time for God's glory? May this thought "fuel" our vision of what He wants done before it is eternally too late!

ALWAYS IN HIM,

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