

Dear Friends:

Greetings from warm and wet Salvador, Bahia, the location that the Brazilian CEF asked us to minister in.

Back when we lived in Fortaleza the Lord gave me a text of scriptures that was very helpful to me. It helped me understand the blessing that God had placed into our lives in that place. That verse was Psalms 127 verse 1. “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” Join this to Psalms 126:3 “The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy... those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”

I was remembering this verse in Ps. 127 in particular this last week as we had a retirement celebration for Olga, the CEF missionary here in Salvador, 69 years old and with some major health issues. As I contemplated what I would like to say to her I thought of these 6 points.

1. God is a builder
2. God wants to use us to be builders
3. God has a plan—He wants to build His house
4. God’s house is a useful place, a comfortable place, a good place
5. God wants to involve us in His building program, but He wants us to read His plans, to build according to His plans to get His eternal results.
6. God will give His workers the security, the hope & supply all their needs to continue on to build.

Olga, the former CEF director of the state of Bahia, is starting a new endeavor. She is returning to her city, 120 kms. from Salvador, to start a volunteer work there, within her energy limits. We have taken over the work that she has started and hope to join God in His building program for the children of Salvador, Bahia.

Salvador is a city of 3 million. I have been looking at the map and trying to figure out a plan of attack for the work to grow in this city. I too am remembering the words of one of our friends, fellow missionary, to get the national people more involved in the work, to do all I can to serve the Lord, but then to move out and invite others to join in the work so that when we move on, there will be a continuation of ministry. As I have been studying the map of the city I have come to realize that the

city is very spread out. The city has grown more like a long boomerang, along the ocean, and the bay of Todos os Santos (All Saints Bay). I am thinking of dividing the city into 5 zones and then working at getting volunteers-- ex-students, to join in the work of reaching the children.

One of our volunteers is very involved in school ministry. The schools aren't officially open, but when they hear of what we are doing in the school, see the work this lady is doing, they are asking us to come and work with their students. There has been a huge increase in crime in the school and so the schools are looking for help. Jesus is the help that they really need and some are alert to this fact.

One of the organizations in town here that does have school ministry is asking us to come to them and train their workers to better work in the school. They do a great job of social ministry, but, when it comes to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, their workers all want to present the gospel but find themselves ill prepared to teach in a spiritual way.

One of the fronts that I am challenging the workers, volunteers here, to do is to move into areas of ministry where the gospel of Jesus isn't being presented. So much of our time is consumed with church ministries, ministries to churches, to church children, to do Vacation Bible Schools, train Sunday School teachers, etc.. This is a very important ministry but, we need to move on to minister to children that are not coming into our church door. We need to move on to work with children that are close at hand, yet outside the gospel.

A few years ago I did a course on people and alternative life styles. In particular the pastor was teaching about the huge need to reach people who are caught up in the world of drugs and drink and all the other stuff that goes along with it. He mentioned that these difficulties start while the person is a child. Once they are involved in these alternative life choices, it takes years for them to gain the victory to be able to leave that life behind. Many want to leave these lives of brokenness, of depravity, but without the ability to do so. They go through many years of brokenness, of heartache, of sorrow, of sub cultural living. Where we presently live we see the discarded people of our world on a constant basis. It was interesting to note that Pr. Paulo mentioned that we need to reach these people while they are children for this is where they start into all these life difficulties. Many never leave this life of difficulty and die, are murdered, are maimed. Jesus loves them too!

This last Sunday a Pastor from "Vida" (Life) talked to the congregation where we are fellowshipping, about the fact that he really doesn't like these poor people very much, but Jesus constrains us to work with these people. He mentioned that they work with small groups of people and after 25 years of working they have more than 80 pastors that were formerly street people. He too mentioned how we need to preach to the children, children up to 8 years old, so that they will not come to the streets and to brokenness and uselessness of living. My heart cries when I see these young lives being lived out in the vices of life.

So, pray for us. I want to move forward so that more children will hear the gospel and escape the fires of hell. God is waiting with His arms open wide. He wants us to be involved in building His house, His kingdom, wherever a soul might be found.

Like everyone else in this world, our monthly regular support is low, by at least, \$500. God bless you and give you guidance as you contemplate as to if you could give. Our addresses are below. Thank-you.

I usually don't do the writing but Eunice asked me to do so this time. God bless you. Since you receive this letter, you can know for sure that we pray for you by name. If you want to share specific prayer requests with us, we would willingly pray with you and remember your requests before the throne of His grace.

Just in case you were wondering, I did not get to preach the Ps. 127 message and the meeting went on for 2 hours and so by the time it was my turn, I just mentioned a few things and sat down. Two hour meetings are long enough.

Praise items

- We have a car, and parking inside our apartment complex (that is a huge deal around here)!
- Health, volunteers, open schools, open churches
- Opportunities to share with children how Jesus loves them
- My car documents are finally in order (took 4 months, lots of frustration but finally, all is in order. Thank you Lord!

Prayer items.

- Wisdom – motivation – adjustment to a hot climate – new people
- Pray for the volunteers to take up the challenge to move out of the church, and into the neighborhoods where there are children who will not come to our churches.
- We are doing a special VBS training, May 28th. Pray that the churches will invite the neighborhood children into their churches to hear of Jesus' love for them
- We are working with a special devotional book for children who are saved, for children to do the devotionals and grow in the Grace of our Lord.
- Pray for our one--year training students to gain a vision for the lost souls of boys and girls.

For the children

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