



# NEWS FROM THE RIOS

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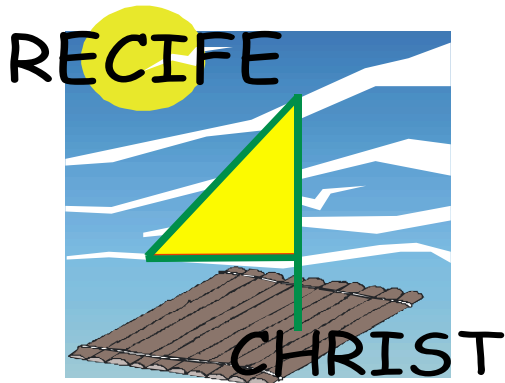
**Christmas 2004**

Dear Partner in Ministry

*From the beginning in many ways, at many times,  
He told us He loved -  
And wasn't Bethlehem a wonderful way to tell us again!  
Now and always you are loved by Him... by us*

*May His Love Fill Your Christmas Season In Special Ways*

## CHURCH PLANTING



As we told you in our last update we have rented a nice building in order to continue our effort to plant a new grace church here in Recife.

We can define the major feature of this building in three words: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. I have made many contacts just standing at door as we work repairing the building. People come and ask what the building will be for, giving us the opportunity to explain and also give them our brochure. I have also had the opportunity of sharing the gospel with some of the men working there.

We have been working hard in order to get all the repairs done as soon as possible. We will be able to do a little more than we expected because we received two generous gifts, one from a good old friend from GBC and another from someone in Jule's family. If you would like to see pictures of the building "before" and "after" please go to: <http://fotos.terra.com.br/album.cgi/urian>. We will be posting more pictures soon.

However, as it is sadly common in Brazil, the repairs in the building are taking longer than what we expected, but, it is almost all done now. Unfortunately, due to this delay, we will not be able to start meeting there before January. December and January is summer vacation here in Brazil and even established churches experience a decreasing in attendance during this period. So we don't have great expectations regarding attendance until after Carnaval, in the first week of February.

We will start meeting in our new building on January 16<sup>th</sup> focussing in preparing our team for ministry through prayer, Bible Study, planning and training. We will also try to make contacts in the community through direct mailing and distributing literature door to door. Also in January, 28-30 we will have a mini-VBS.

We are planning two days of "open door" on February, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> during the daytime and a "Friend Day" February, 12 in the evening. On February, 26 we will start our activities for English speaking Brazilians. We call

it "Saturday Night Alive in Christ."

Also, as part of our effort to make contacts within the community we will offer free crafts, music and English classes.

## THEOLOGICAL FORUM

On November, 27, we conducted the I Dispensational Theological Forum in the city of Aracaju. We discussed the issue of sign gifts from our dispensational perspective. There were a total of 99 participants, many from our grace churches there, a few pastors and leaders from a number of different churches and students from a Baptist Bible Institute in Aracaju. The forum was organized and sponsored by the convention of Grace churches in the State of Sergipe. It was an exciting time of fellowship and Bible study. We also had the opportunity to sell many of our dispensational handouts and received 35 subscriptions for our Theological Journal. Please pray that as the result of this forum our grace believers there will stand stronger against the influence of the pentecostal movement and many people from other churches will be challenged to pay more attention to what we have to say.

## PERSONAL

Please join us in thanking the Lord for our little daughter, Gabrielle. She is truly a blessing from the Lord. She is obedient, does very well in school (just like her dad, Jule corrects, just like her mom!!!!). But, we thank the Lord specially for her attitude towards her classmates. There is a girl on her class who comes from a very dysfunctional family and is rejected by many kids, however, Gabi has become her best friend. She comes often to our home, and just last week the school principal told me that her behaviour has improved dramatically due to Gabi's friendship and influence. Please, pray for this girl, Lívia. Gabi has also been very supportive of a new newcomer, who would probably have a hard time adjusting to a new city and school, if was not for Gabi's help. Praise The Lord!

We are still waiting the right moment for Jule's corneal transplant. We are so thankful for the many generous gifts we have received from friends and churches in the States, however, we are still short of the amount we need to cover the transplant, transportation and hotel. There is a big battle going on right now in Brazil between doctors and health insurance companies. Many doctors are raising their prices to compensate for not attending people who are insured. In Recife there is a 3 year waiting list for transplant, therefore, we have to go to the South of Brazil. When she had the transplant done in one eye, I could not afford going with her. Her mother was living closer to São Paulo at the time so she could be with Jule. But, since then, her mother has moved to the Northeast, so it is a little more complicated now for her. Jule's ill eye is really bothering her now, so, we hope she will be able to have the transplant done as soon as possible. But, quite frankly, it will probably be no earlier than next April.

In Christ,

Urian, Jule & Gabi



**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

**We could not pursue our goal of REACHING THE GREAT NATION OF BRAZIL WITH THE GREAT MESSAGE OF THE GRACE OF GOD without your help.**