

BRAZIL

It hardly seems real that our trip to Brazil has come and gone so quickly. I am not at all sure how to start to sum up all the things we experienced. It all went by so quickly that we feel like we were in a whirlwind – capturing momentary snap shots. We do wish you could have accompanied us, met with the people and watched as God worked in their lives and build His church.

We had the opportunity of ministering in 5 different cities, and two different states.

During the services, it was very encouraging for us to see most if not all respond to the message that God has a destiny and a purpose for their lives (Jer. 29:11) and that in spite of the storms of life that hit us, as Christians, we can rise above the storms. Like Peter in the gospels, we can get out of the boat of our personal circumstances and walk through the storms of difficulties to Jesus. True safety and victory is not the absence of storms or troubles, but living in the Presence of Christ. The storm, the wind and the waves did not effect Him at all. He is our refuge in the storm and with Him there is Victory in every situation.

Each time the altar call was given the people would come eagerly to the front to pray and to be prayed for. They prayed with many tears and so much anguish. There was a darkness and a heaviness that was very oppressive at times and difficult to break through, but God is greater than the powers of darkness. When human hearts are longing for the Savior's touch, He has a way of reaching down to heal the hurts, to restore hope and to release the captives. Because of the language barriers, it was sometimes difficult for us but with God, there are no language barriers. He knows the cry of each heart and how best to meet the need and move His children on to the next level of growth, maturity or service.

At one church, someone on the leadership team said, "That message was exactly what we needed to hear right now. Every area we have been praying about and seeking direction on, you mentioned. God has confirmed what we already felt He had indicated. Thank you so much for bringing His word."

One pastor said, "That message you spoke tonight was what I have been trying to teach the people but they are resistant. They needed to hear it from someone else too. Now they are beginning to do the works of Jesus as we have been trying to teach. Thank you for sharing what God put in your heart. It was the right message at the right time and place."

Another Pastor said, "I have been feeling for some time that as a church, we need to put away all the things we have been doing. I feel that we need to make a brand new start. Your preaching has given me new hope that we can make a new start in God and a new, much greater impact on our community."

Other churches had just relocated and were facing major challenges and great opposition. They were encouraged that God would build His church and even the gates of hell would not prevail against them.

In all these cases, we knew nothing before hand about the pastor, the church or the people – not their needs, challenges or victories. But God knew and crafted the message to meet the needs, encourage both the leadership and the congregations and challenge them to walk into the victory that Christ has already won for them. What a great and loving God we serve



God gave us a deep love for the people of Brazil and if possible we would have brought many of them home with us. We were warmly received at each location with an invite to come back. They are a special people with destiny that is exciting and will one day impact the word for Jesus.