



# MARIA'S MESSENGER

December 2022

My dear friends,

One year is about to finish, and a new one is coming. So many things happened, good and bad, but give thanks in everything, as our God controls everything; what a blessing to know Him, who holds everything in His hands, and guess what! He is our dear father! What a privilege! Sometimes we are not aware of this. Some are gone, and others are still waiting to be with Him. It brings us peace, no matter what happens, because our Savior made it possible one day. Thank you, Jesus, for all. We can say MERRY CHRISTMAS with real meaning!

Talking about ministry, we are preparing for the January camp season, hoping to have a good number of campers because it has not been easy to find a good group of staff to work at the camp. Each day things get more complicated, but our God is in control.

Bible clubs are about to finish this year and will return in February. We want to increase the ministry in Fortaleza, where there is a great need. Please, pray for workers and opportunities.

We had our BCM Family Conference. Bob and Corrie Evans, and Pr. Kennede Soares, our Brazilian board president, were the speakers. They did an excellent job. It was a time of refreshing and growth. What a blessing!



Pastor Antonio Mota



Dr Bob Evans & Maria Gusmão



Worship Time

We have some kids who need your prayers. They are:

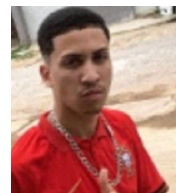


RIQUELME - 9 years old

His mother uses drugs and has had nine children. Riquelme lives with his mother and three siblings. The other siblings were given away. The house is a small room that used to be a bathroom but became a house because the mother had to give up most of her home to a drug dealer because of drug debts. They live in a dangerous area with a lot of drug traffic.

His mother is often drunk or on drugs. She makes him beg for food at other people's houses and beats him up when he refuses. When we give her advice, she cries and says that she will kill herself, leaving him very shaken. He has very few clothes; his mother doesn't wash them, nor do they have a place to keep them, and usually, when the clothes are too dirty, she throws them away.

He doesn't like living with his mother because of the aggression and dreams of being adopted by the same family that adopted his nine-year-old sister because he likes her very much.



GABRIEL VINÍCIUS - 20 years old

He is in good health and studies at night. Lately, he hasn't had any problems with his mother. He is working as a delivery boy at a snack bar. He is not attending church and continues with his drug addiction. Lately, he has been dating an organized girl, which has given him a sense of responsibility.



ALLAN - 20 years old

His family is dysfunctional. His older brother got involved in drugs and trafficking, was shot in the spine, and is in a wheelchair. Allan was involved with drugs, but after he moved in with a girl and became a father, he abandoned his addiction. Today he works in recycling to support his family.

We had to stop the continued work on the dining room because we cannot do any construction work during the camp season. Only in February will we be back. I want to praise the Lord, who provided a gift to finish doing the dining room roof.

Our country is living a turmoil. We had a stolen election, and a new president was elected; however, the Brazilian people do not accept the result. Many people have been in front of the army barracks since November 1st. Sometimes, when I have the time, I go also. We are asking the Brazilian Army to intervene and save the people from communism. If Lula, the one who was elected not by the people but by the supreme court, becomes our president, we will have a communist country. We need your prayers.



We thank the Lord and those who have given to our car. We are still in the process of raising the money.

We plan to go to the States in the second part of the coming year. We have a visa interview on April 23 to renew my visa and apply for Antonio's visa again. God's willing, we will see you this coming year. The plan is to spend three months (September to November) in the States and visit many of you. If you want us to visit your church, please let us know as soon as possible.

Please, meet one of our bible club teachers:



Hello, I'm Maria Auxiliadora. I was born in the countryside of Pernambuco. My mother had thirteen children and my parents were very Catholic. They were very involved in witchcraft and this brought a lot of suffering to the family. But God was merciful, and reached my mother, and through her all her children came to serve the Lord. I accepted Jesus very young, but I was very rebellious for many years. I had no commitment. I smoked, I drank, and I was not sure of my salvation. I went through very difficult situations. I went through a divorce and it was horrible. But God restored my life. I left

all the addictions and started to serve the Lord. I started to participate and then to lead home groups from my church. My sister (Maria Aparecida) always invited me to go to the camp and then I started to take some poor children with me. I fell in love with BCM Brazil and spent more time involved with it. Afterwards, I started a project in my community and God touched my heart to expand the ministry. A few months ago I was invited to become a Bible Club teacher and I felt very insecure. I thought that this was not for me, because I didn't see anyone accepting Jesus in the project. But one day I saw some young people coming to my church and I realized that they were some of the teenagers that had been served by the ministry that I had in the community. God made me see through this that not everything is immediate; many times the work is in teams and takes time. Today I reach about 480 kids every week I am grateful to God for being part of BCM Brazil and for all the people who prayed for me.

Praise and prayer requests:

- The fact that we are back to do camp ministry is a blessing; pray that we will have enough campers and staff to work; also pray for the campers' salvation and protection.
- Pray for Brazil; we need God to help us in this circumstance. Ask for peace and justice.
- Praise the Lord, the ministry of Bible Clubs continues in Fortaleza; ask the Lord for more workers.
- Praise the Lord; our BCM Conference was a blessing.
- Praise the Lord for the gift sent to help with the dining room roof.
- Praise the Lord for the gifts sent to buy a car; ask the Lord to continue raising the money that is still needed.
- Praise Lord Miguel is doing okay; now he is listening to one bible preaching every day, hoping that the word of God will give him total freedom from the alcohol.
- Praise the Lord who has given us strength to work; ask Him to help me accomplish all tasks needed.
- Praise the Lord, who is in control of all, and ask Him to bless our plans to go to the States according to His will and plans for our lives.
- Please, pray for our visa.

Thank you very much for being with us one more year; thanks for your prayer, financial help, friendship, and encouragement. We appreciate each one of you and are looking forward to seeing you. Until then: Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year full of blessings.

With a big Brazilian hug,

Maria Gusmão and Antônio Mota



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