



JOYCE HANCOCK

FROM BRAZIL



17.1

Ministry Update

April 20, 2010

Dear friends,

As you serve the Lord in this New Year, I trust that you are experiencing His Presence, His protection and His filling in your life every day. I thank the Lord always for renewing my strength each morning and for the privilege of serving Him in influencing the lives of others in our midst. We are in the middle of our first semester at Free Flight. A few courses are ending and teachers are preparing to begin again with new groups of students. We continue to offer courses and opportunities to improve the lives of our students and to get to know our Lord and Saviour more fully.

It seems that one problem gets resolved and we face a few new ones. That's what ministry is all about and we try not to be discouraged. Last year, I mentioned the possibility of having a direct cable from the control Tower for our internet connection. We spent quite a bit of money preparing for the cable as the telephone company told us to do. After it was all done, the company put in new telephone lines of inferior quality and told us they had no internet signal available for us — no cable, no internet. I eventually transferred my telephone line from the house that I was renting in order to get a minimal signal of internet for Free Flight. That part is working well for us but the promise from the telephone company has, so far, just been talk and no action. Please pray that the cable will eventually be installed. We hope to be able to connect most of our computers for the classroom and the internet café to the minimal connection that we have at the moment. We are hoping that the signal will stretch to allow us to begin to use our internet café and games network.

You may remember that our band competition from last November didn't happen because the electricity went off. Our guys are planning another competition for June for an afternoon event. Even though it won't be dark, we still need electricity for the musical instruments so pray that all will go well. Our band has progressed significantly and is being invited to perform in various churches and at interdenominational events. The members have also begun composing their own music. It has become an expression of their growing faith. I am really excited to see what they are doing.

Our efforts to raise our own funding always meet with many obstacles. Please continue to pray for increased sales in our ice cream shop and graphics shop, for rentals of both the conference room and the music room (for other bands to practice) and for the functioning of our internet café and games network. We still hope in the future to get our bakery underway but haven't yet been able to buy the necessary equipment. The embassy that had promised to help us didn't come through with their funding.

Because of increasing expenses and decreasing resources, we fired our cleaning lady at the end of February. Her work has been divided among all of us at Free Flight. She and her family lived in the small house at Free Flight for three years, free of charge. They are now living in their own house, which they had been building while working with us. In order to help with finances, I have moved to Free Flight and will pay my rent and utilities to Free Flight instead of to the owner of the house that I was renting. I am sleeping in the school at the moment while we do a few repairs on the house. We also need to build two rooms for our Canadian volunteers who come each

year. My address now is Quadra L, Chácara 10, Setor Coimbra, Águas Lindas de Goiás, GO, Brasil, 72.910-000. The telephone number is the same as before — 61-3618-8768. My email address also continues the same — jhancock@solar.com.br.

Our sports program is suffering for lack of facilities. We had hoped to buy more property and construct a proper soccer field. Since that hasn't happened yet, we approached a nearby school with an idea for a partnership in sports. Our sports director would teach the students a few times a week, sometimes using their field for games and sometimes using our training area for training in soccer and our volleyball and basketball courts for games. The school director liked the idea but an employee of the school is apparently receiving money from the municipality for an almost non-existent sports program at that school. Our offer of help threatened him and he put a lot of pressure on the director to reject our offer. Often, we are baffled by the people here who would rather continue with poor quality education than confront difficult situations in order to make changes.

Free Flight tries to help its employees continue their education as a means of developing leadership. We provide opportunities for both students and staff. Pray for four of our teachers who are studying at night. George and Fernando are studying at university in a teaching program. Their majors are English and Portuguese, which they put to good use, teaching at Free Flight. Frank and Adílio are studying graphic design at a private school. Frank is using some of what he is learning in his computer courses and Adílio is using some of his material in his silk screen classes. I am hoping that this course will enable both of them to do contract work on their own in the future, thus increasing their income without having to leave Free Flight. Both Frank and Adílio are coordinators now and I hope they will stay for many years.

Continue to pray for us as we meet the above-mentioned challenges and seek God's direction and blessing in each situation. Pray for our staff, for health, protection and spiritual growth. Several have had colds that hang on and a few have had increased asthmatic problems over the past few months. Pray for Laura, our volunteer from New Brunswick, as she continues to learn Portuguese and as she lends a hand in many of our activities. Pray for a volunteer team

from Birmingham, Alabama, which will be with us in May and a team from Moncton, New Brunswick, which will be here at the end of June. They are busy preparing their ministries with us.

Thank you for your faithfulness with me in prayer and in support. Some of you have accompanied me the whole 17 years that I have been ministering here in Brazil. Some of you have even accompanied me since I was in Indonesia many years ago. I feel truly blessed of God to have such caring and faithful partners. Thank you too for keeping in touch. You can also contact Eileen at CBM, emoorecrispin@cbmin.org, for any CBM concerns and Nancy, ngcameron@hotmail.com, for any ministry update changes or comments. Remember that Nancy can move your name to the email list, if you would like to receive these updates by email. May God continue to bless you each one.

Rejoicing in Him,

Joyce Hancock

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