



JOYCE HANCOCK FROM BRAZIL



15.4

Ministry Update

December 12, 2008

Dear cherished friends,

I do cherish each one of you. Here we are near the end of the year and you have been praying, helping financially, encouraging me and upholding me all year long — and for many years already. I praise God for you because He uses you to strengthen me for this task to which He has called me. I still love to be involved in this ministry of Free Flight and praise our Lord for the lives He has enabled us to touch and for the progress we have seen this year. Many of you have sent emails, asking about my health. Thankfully, a doctor here discovered through blood tests, that my acid level was high, and gave me a list of foods to avoid in order to lower the reading. Now, the swelling and most of the pain have disappeared. Praise the Lord! I'm back to running around again!

In my last update, I shared with you a "wish list" of the things we would have loved to accomplish by the end of the year. Some things have happened but there were too many things on the list to reasonably accomplish at one time. However, that is always the way with me! I have more things in mind to do than I can do at one time but that doesn't bother me. Many things just percolate for awhile in my mind and God brings forward the things that can be attended to, one or two at a time! I'm still a multi-tasker and love it!

Our courses and various ministries, such as our Sunday School are always first on our minds.

We have offered a good variety again this year and have even begun some new courses. We were able to invite our children and youth to a Vacation Bible School again and to a basketball camp which taught the Bible along with the basketball. We hope to do more sports camp next year. We would like to be able to do more spiritual retreats, something that didn't happen this year. Instead, this year, we established our Sunday school. Slowly we are gaining a core group of people who come to praise and to study. Continue to pray for a larger impact on our community through our Sunday school.

My "wish list" mentioned completing two bathrooms in our upstairs conference area. We have about 95% finished those and also the kitchen, storage and service areas beside them. We are pleased and praising the Lord for this progress. Next year, we want to finish the floor in the conference room. On December 14, we have our conference room rented for a graduation. We hope to do more of this when it is actually finished. We have also been working on creating space in our computer lab for a small internet room to better serve our students. We have the room built but still need to finish the wiring. We have two computers available for this project and are planning for more.

We were hoping to buy some equipment for our bakery since the Swiss Embassy only wants to help after we have begun operations. We decided to leave that until next year since we received an opportunity to buy an ice cream business that already has a good number of

customers. Our friend, who sold us his business, is now training our workers in making and selling ice cream. For some time now, we have been looking for opportunities to make our own money to pay our bills. Up to this point, most of our support has come from various kinds of donations. In the future, we need to be able to sustain ourselves. The ice cream business is one of the methods that will enable us to be self-sustaining and also continue to provide jobs for local people. For now, we have put the ice cream equipment into the bakery. We plan to use profits from the ice cream shop to buy the initial bakery equipment. We will decide early next year how we will operate the bakery and the ice cream business together. We have another building near the bakery that we can use and sell our products together in one place. We had been saving this building for Wilson and his sculpture class but he has taken on leadership of a church as well as his own job so we expect there will be a delay in his coming to serve with us. Keep us in prayer as we set up and look for the best people to make the bakery and the ice cream shop go ahead.

Two and a half months ago, Divino, our director, wanted to move on to a new job. God had already brought Ivan to work with us in the Sunday school and made it possible for him to serve as our director three days a week. He has been doing an excellent job. On his other days, Ivan works in graphics and has convinced us that setting up a graphics business would also help us achieve our self-sustainability goal. In a recent Board meeting, we voted unanimously to work on both the ice cream business and the graphics business. We have started training two of our young men in graphic design and Ivan has volunteered to be responsible for setting up the business and bringing in the initial clients. We will eventually offer courses in graphic design and operation of the various machines. I am thankful to the Lord for Ivan's input and responsibility. He has more business experience than Divino had, as well as a passion for serving

the Lord. He has come at a time when I needed someone with more maturity to share responsibilities.

Our projects involving steel have been put on hold for a while because of the alarming rise in the cost of this product. That includes our railing around the balcony of the school and the covered sports court. Those projects will continue to percolate for a while in my mind until the right opportunity presents itself for their execution. We haven't forgotten our plan to buy more property for the future expansion of our services. That has been voted on and in 2009, we'll be looking at a piece of property very close to Free Flight.

We are looking forward to a number of visitors in 2009, starting off with Alyssa, a Tyndale student in January. Catherine is arranging her visa in order to stay another semester and we expect to have a few friends, Joel and Tessa, with us from England in the first half of the year. We will be preparing too, for some Canadian and American mission teams. Our students are already asking when the next visitors will arrive! Pray for each of them as they seek God's leading in their participation with us and for the ways God will use their testimonies and experiences as they share with our students.

Thank you for keeping in touch and for sharing your lives with me. Remember that you can contact me at jhancock@solar.com.br, CBM at emoorecrispin@cbmin.org, and Nancy (ministry update) at nqcameron@hotmail.com. May God multiply your Christmas blessings as you seek to represent Him through all that you are and do.

Rejoicing In HIM

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