



# JOYCE HANCOCK FROM BRAZIL



16.1

Ministry Update

June 1, 2009

Dear patient friends,

Patient — because you have waited so long to hear from me! Please forgive my delay in sending out some news. Life has been just too busy this year. I seem to be running even more than usual and need to put the brakes on a bit. Thanks for your prayers for me — my health, protection, strength, wisdom, perseverance, joy, etc, etc. Please pray too that I will be able to create spaces of rest within my days or weeks or months.

Our courses continue to attract children, teens and adults. These give us many opportunities to share our love for and trust in the Lord, especially when we have visitors come to participate with us. We enjoyed having our Birmingham, Alabama, friends here earlier in May, doing some construction, making tables, teaching sewing classes and doing children's Bible Club. Devotionals, prayers, one-on-one talks and the commitment to helping Free Flight always makes a lasting impression on our students and enables some to express new or deepened faith in Christ because of these contacts. We look forward to two teams who will join us later — First Baptist, Dartmouth, in June and Fort William Baptist, Thunder Bay, in August. Pray for both teams as they raise their funds and plan their activities, testimonies, music and drama for use at Free Flight and in the local churches. Catherine, a teacher from Winnipeg, has been a volunteer here since last August (and for a few trips before that). She has helped with many courses and much counseling. Catherine goes back to Canada at the end of July. Pray for her as she seeks God's guidance for her future options.

At the end of April, we finally received visas and were able to send two of our students/ teachers

(Frank and Josué) to participate in a month of activities and ministries with a partner church in New Brunswick. This is only possible for those who have spent time learning English. I received an email today from Frank talking about how much he has done and how often he has given his testimony. He said that he is learning much more about the plans God has for his life. We praise God for the ministry that is happening in his life through our brothers and sisters, even while God is using him to encourage others.

It is interesting to see how God prepares people for more responsibility and for more service. Several of our staff members used to be students. They have trained for courses and now teach, supervise and give leadership in several ways. It is exciting to see them open up spiritually as they grow with us and as we seek God's direction together. It is encouraging to hear other staff members, besides me, speak daily of seeing evidence of God's work in their lives, of His blessing and direction upon Free Flight and of their opportunities to share God with their friends. Continue to pray for our staff, that all members will grow in Christ and be witnesses to our students.

We are always trying to set up new courses so that we can give more opportunities to our community and be as useful as possible. Recently, Socorro and Maricildes took a cooking course offered by our municipal government's social services department. In June, we will be offering the same course, passing on what has been learned. The women are excited about this new venture. The course teaches, in part, nutrition and the use of food materials that often are thrown away.

I mentioned at the end of last year that we had bought an ice cream shop. That business continues to

expand but slowly so far. In February, with the help of many friends, we managed to buy equipment and open a graphics shop. As a business, that has also been going slowly, partly because of the financial crisis that is reaching around the world. However, Adílio, Eré and Frank have been learning graphics arts, operating the offset machine, finishing the product (cutting, gluing, etc., to make the notepads, receipt books, request pads, etc.) and selling. Ivan has given much help with this. In August, these young guys will be the ones to start teaching these same skills that they are now perfecting. Pray for them as they take on these new challenges. We still hope to open our bakery but haven't yet been able to buy equipment second-hand. That will come in time.

As we continue with our courses, professional training, sports and music, we also continue slowly with the rest of the construction. At the beginning of the year, we finished the bathrooms on the second floor of the school. That floor consists of a conference/multi-purpose room and smaller rooms for bathrooms, kitchen and storage. The part remaining now is to put down soundproofing material and tile the floor of the conference room. We begin that stage next week. Pray for us that our funds will be elastic and stretch to the end of the project! We have also been working on a permanent storage room for our construction materials so that we can try to finish up the last classroom on the main floor (which is now our storage room) before we begin our new semester in August.

We keep trying to strengthen our sports program. Last year, we were able to form a basketball team which now plays against teams in the Federal District (for basketball, there isn't anything organized in Águas Lindas). Now we have formed several soccer teams (various ages) that play in Águas Lindas and other towns in the region. Three of our teams are playing in a tournament on Saturday. The soccer program has turned into a soccer school with the merging of another group that had many of the same boys participating at Free Flight. Adílio tells me there are about 140 adolescents in the soccer school. Help! We need to improve our sports facilities to accommodate all of these kids. They play soccer for now but we hope, as they get to know Free Flight better and get a little older, that they will begin to take other courses with us as well. Some already attend our Sunday school.

Sometimes the courts send us youth who need to become involved in courses and spend less time getting into trouble. Since that is one of our reasons for existence (to help youth stay off the streets and attain a positive direction in life), we are happy to receive them. Two young people, who came recently from the other end of the municipality, were surprised to hear from the prosecutor later, that I had gone to the court to report that they were doing well and not missing any days. They were encouraged by our support and we are encouraged by their interest.

We have seen this semester, more of the neighborhood children coming to our Sunday school. This is encouraging. We would like to see more of our students but we understand that many of them are now attending churches closer to their homes. We would also like to see more adults attend. Please keep this in prayer for us.

I enjoy hearing from many of you, even though I don't always answer your emails! I have good intentions but they don't all materialize! Remember that you can contact me at [jhancock@solar.com.br](mailto:jhancock@solar.com.br) or CBM at [emoorecrispin@cbmin.org](mailto:emoorecrispin@cbmin.org) or Nancy (for ministry update list) at [ngcameron@hotmail.com](mailto:ngcameron@hotmail.com). Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and financial support for me and for Free Flight. Thank you also to those who are able to come as a mission team to visit and participate in this ministry. All of you are important and make things happen here to God's glory. May God always bless your ministries as you pray for this ministry in Brazil.

Praising HIM

*Joyce Hancock*

**Address in Brazil**

Quadra 88, Casa 31  
Cidade Jardim  
Águas Lindas de Goiás  
GO, 72.910-000

[jhancock@solar.com.br](mailto:jhancock@solar.com.br)

**Prayer Letter Address**

Regal Road Baptist Church  
6 Regal Road  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2W 4Z7

[regalroad@canada.com](mailto:regalroad@canada.com)