



# JOYCE HANCOCK FROM BRAZIL



16.3

Ministry Update

November 2, 2009

Dear encouraging friends,

Thank you very much for your emails and letters of encouragement, sharing news of your church and families so that I may be praying for you as you pray for me. I feel the strength of your prayers each day in the many activities that I do, the conversations that I have with students and neighbours, in my own spiritual walk. I see God's protection upon our staff and students in many wonderful ways. I hear about things that happen in our area but do not happen to us, because of God's protection. Maricildes and I begin every morning at Free Flight, asking the Lord to guide and protect each of our staff, students, activities and witness. We praise Him for answered prayer and for His marvelous Presence at all times. We pray that each of our staff and students will be influenced by our Christian witness to draw closer to Him. I know that you pray with us for these things. Thank you. You are a very important part of this team.

Sharlene Craig, from the CBM office, spent three days with us this past week. It was great to introduce her to our staff and students and show her our activities. It was even better to have her enthusiastic participation with our students and her wise leadership in a three lunch-hour seminar with our staff on conflict resolution. Pray that the staff will apply the practical principles that she shared with us. Many are afraid to learn new things, especially if

it is something that affects them personally. Given the aggressive Brazilian personality, there are often small conflicts, mostly born out of misunderstanding one another or wanting one's own desires above all else. Sharlene carefully and sensitively addressed many common conflicts. She also reminded all of us of the many churches and individuals across Canada who are praying for all aspects of the Free Flight ministry.

Pray also please, for the small businesses in Águas Lindas who help us every month with a small donation. Several have stopped giving because of financial pressures and because of our own development as an association. Many do not understand that while we are building more and offering more courses and activities, it is all done free of charge to our community and therefore, we still need help from these businesses. Pray for those who are faithful in their help that they would see God's blessings upon their businesses and recognize His hand upon them. Continue to pray also for our own ice cream business and graphics shop, that they would become better known and increase in production. Continue to pray too, that we will be able to rent our conference room. We hope to have it totally finished before the end of this month.

For the second half of this month, some of our staff are planning a gospel band competition. Pray for their planning and for many people to

come to listen to the music and praise God along with them. Pray especially for Frank who is heading up the event. We are painting the conference room of the school now and still need to install hand rails on the stairs and finish a few details. Our goal is to be totally finished before this competition. We would like very much to do the railing and put down rubber matting on the balcony which goes all around the school. Often students go up there and run around, even though it is closed off and out of bounds because of the danger of falling off. Pray that we will receive donations sufficient to complete this task by the end of the year. Our new music room, by the way, is almost ready for painting the walls. Soon, we will move our equipment out of the old house (which is hot and stuffy) and set it up more effectively in this classroom. After this, we plan to use the house for staff relaxation, study, meals, etc.

We have been realizing that there is little opportunity here in Águas Lindas for our soccer and basketball teams to compete and gain experience. We have been asking the Lord for opportunities in the surrounding area and are pleased to see that God is opening up some interesting opportunities both in neighbouring towns in the state of Goiás and in the Federal District. One of these is with the Bradesco Foundation in Ceilandia. Bradesco is a Brazilian bank. I teasingly (but seriously too) told Adilio, our sports coordinator, to make good friends with the tournament organizers for the Foundation with hopes that some day, the Foundation might help us improve our sports facilities. Please keep this in prayer too.

We hope to receive some badly-needed new computers in December. With these computers, we plan to improve our computer lab (parts for our present computers aren't even fabricated anymore!) and finally, set up an internet café. The computers in the internet café will also have language practice programs installed on them for the use of our language students of English,

Spanish, French, Italian and tutoring in Portuguese. This project has been a dream of ours for the past four years. Pray that it will come to reality soon and be a boost for our students' studies. There are a number of little problems to work out, such as poor internet connection in our area.

Remember that you can contact me at [jhancock@solar.com.br](mailto:jhancock@solar.com.br), CBM through Eileen at [emoorecrispin@cbmin.org](mailto:emoorecrispin@cbmin.org) and Nancy, ministry updates at [ngcameron@hotmail.com](mailto:ngcameron@hotmail.com). If there is anyone who receives this letter by post (snail mail) who could receive it by electronic mail (email), please send your email address to Nancy and she'll make the change on the list. Thanks very much. May God continue to bless your ministries and personal lives as you live to reflect God in every way.

In Him,

*Joyce Hancock*

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