



JOYCE HANCOCK FROM BRAZIL



16.1

Ministry Update

September 13, 2009

Dear praying friends,

Thank you for your faithfulness in keeping in touch with me, praying for me and for Free Flight, sharing with me some of your news and bringing me before your churches in prayer. Your prayers have enabled many things to happen since I last wrote. Both of the volunteer teams that I mentioned have participated with us at Free Flight and have made a tremendous contribution with teaching courses, helping the children, teaching children's Bible Club, sharing their testimonies and their spiritual walk with our students. We are thankful for both the groups from Dartmouth and from Thunder Bay. Our students are sorry to hear there will be no more groups until next year. Please pray for those who are already preparing for their time of ministry with us in 2010. Catherine, our long term volunteer, is now back in Canada and is teaching in Winnipeg. Pray for her adjustments to Canada and a different level of students than she had here in Águas Lindas. Frank and Josué, two of our teachers, spent a month in New Brunswick participating in church and community activities with members of Kennebecasis Baptist Church in Quispamsis. They had a fabulous experience and grew spiritually from their sharing life and testimonies with these friends. Pray for their continual spiritual growth.

Please continue to pray for all of our staff, including myself, as most of us are doing two or three jobs at Free Flight. We are being stretched constantly. Pray for wisdom, responsibility, willingness to help others even when tired, and rest for our bodies and spirits. We have been feeling the financial crunch as have so many others and this adds to the stress of each day. We often feel that we have more to do than we have energy or resources to do things and

request prayer that we will choose the most needed or most useful activities. I have written several proposals for help for Free Flight this year and to date, all have been rejected. There are a few others still in the consideration process. Please be in prayer that something might be accepted to help us with the many projects that need to be done.

Even though resources have been tight, we have tried to do what seems to be necessary and trust the Lord for the income as it is needed. With a good donation, we have been trying to finish the interior of our conference/multi-purpose room in the upstairs of the school. We have now finished putting in the sound-reducing material and laying the ceramic tiles on the floor. We have just started putting tile around the lower half of the walls to make cleaning easier. We still need to repaint the inside walls and put rubber matting down the stairs and on the stairwell. There is still much to go but we praise the Lord for what has been accomplished. We are hoping to rent this room for receptions, birthdays, meetings, etc., when it is finished, besides using it for our own events, including Sunday School. Our location is in a poor and somewhat dangerous section of Águas Lindas so pray that the area won't make people afraid to rent the space.

Besides continuing the construction as much as possible, we have taken on needed staff and pray for the resources to pay them. For quite some time, we have needed a secretary in the office to help people and answer the telephone, among other tasks. At the beginning of August, we hired Maricildes (our sewing and handcrafts teacher) for the days when she isn't giving classes. She is doing well in the office, although feels somewhat torn between the two tasks. We are thankful for the extra help that she can give us. We also hired Audir to do more of the music

classes. He is one of the guitarists in our band and is an excellent player of drums, base, electric and acoustic guitar. Some of Catherine's students are carrying on the keyboard class. We hope that Audir will eventually learn keyboard too. Our cooking course with Socorro went well and will be offered again soon. Besides the construction upstairs, we are working slowly on moving our construction storage room and finishing the last classroom (which was construction storage) for a permanent music room. Once this is finished, we will just have two more bathrooms to complete before the entire interior of the school is finished.

Our ice cream and graphics businesses have not grown in recent months, with the downturn in the economy and the constant rise of prices. However, we still have hopes of both businesses (and still others in the future) eventually supplying the major funding to keep this work going into the future. We decided that our workers weren't ready yet to give classes in graphic design, operation of the offset machine and the finishing work. Pray that we will be able to get these courses started for the beginning of 2010.

On August 7, Free Flight celebrated five years of official formation (activities started in January of 2004 but the organization wasn't officially formed until August). We actually celebrated throughout the month with a Board and staff luncheon and annual meeting, a sports and recreation day with a visiting basketball team to challenge our team in the morning and a soccer tournament in the afternoon, and a praise evening with two other bands joining ours for an evening of music. The praise evening was the first event upstairs after the tile was completed on the floor. In fact, the tiling was completed on the morning of the event! No time to spare! If anyone would be interested in giving a special gift for Free Flight's fifth birthday, CBM has a fund marked for Free Flight, Brazil, where donations can be received. We are thankful for God's great blessings upon this ministry but are aware of the tremendous needs all around us and know that we still have much work to do.

Just last week, our soccer trainers took two of our teams to play in a special series of games set up for choosing players for possible professional play. Eight of our players were chosen to begin training with a

farm team in the Federal District. Their expenses will be paid by the team. Needless to say, they are excited and we are happy for them, even though we will have to replace them on our teams. This is our business, to open doors of opportunity and enable youth to "fly more freely into the future."

Thank you for making this ministry possible through your gifts to my team support and to Free Flight and through your prayers for me, for our staff and for the activities that we offer. As we have looked back over the past five years, we realize that many of our former students are now working and helping their families. Many also have come to know Christ and are involved in various churches. Pray for much more fruit as we go forward in ministry. Remember that you can contact me at jhancock@solar.com.br, CBM through Eileen at emoorecrispin@cbmin.org and Nancy for ministry updates at ngcameron@hotmail.com. Please keep Nancy in prayer too at this time as she has recently lost her sister. May God's richest blessings always be upon you.

In Him, Joyce

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