

February 2019

## 'Warm' Christian greetings to all:

Record breaking cold and chill bring cancellations, chattering teeth and hot chocolate!!! One might be tempted to fantasize being in the tropical climates of Haiti or Brazil. There, the rainy season is in full swing and there is no frost on the pumpkins!! Were you to visit Saud d'Eau today, you might see early morning commuters using motorcycle taxis clutching their sweaters-the temperature a 'cool' 72 degrees. So we all stand on our heat registers or by the wood stove warming our hands and tummies with a cup of hot chocolate, thanking the Lord for the warmth of His presence in our hearts.

Last month's devotional, *The Sojourner*, established an excellent perspective for the New Year. "...Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear (reverence). I Peter 1:17. William Barkley wrote, "Reverence is the attitude of men who are always aware that they are in the presence of God." <u>Daily Study Bible Series</u>, Peter: p. 188.

God is at work in the lives of His children. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13. This is the picture of the Heavenly Father yearning to draw errant men with His gracious Holy Spirit. John 6:44. The offer, to fallen man, is the gift of Salvation. And as with any gift, it must be received-it can be rejected!!

## Co-operation in Salvation

God has already made the first move to reconcile fallen man. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John12:32. The next move is up to each and every man. The Apostle Paul put it this way, "... Work out your own Salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12. Did you notice this verse is followed by the gracious promise that God indeed is working in every man to draw them unto Salvation? These two verses present the three dimensional work of Salvation. God so loved the world He gave His Son; Christ so loved that He went to Calvary to draw the whosoever to the cross. Man responds and repents with godly sorrow to receive the gift of Salvation. It is never God who withholds Salvation; it is always man who deprives himself of it.

Cooperation is not only required in personal Salvation. It is the heart of Evangelism. It must have grieved the heart of William Carey to hear his church leaders declare, "If God wanted to save the heathen, He would do it without your help!!" The command of Christ is that believers everywhere pray the Lord of Harvest that He would send forth laborers

into the field." Matthew 9:38. The failure to go is not that there was no call, but that the call went unheeded. The diligent missionary sees so many needs, so many open doors, that the danger is that one may get ahead of the will of God. The call of God is neither anonymous nor aimless. When God calls you it will be personal and specific. That calls for the heart-felt cry, "Here am I, send me."

## News from the Field

*HAITI:* The church in Guerin has experienced some delay in getting the walls laid and the belt or top beam poured in preparation for the roof. The video taken by Pastor Lukner shows this work is now completed and ready for roofing. Continue to pray that there will be suitable weather for them to complete this project.

The October bulletin mentioned a developing situation with the property in Mirebalais. Don Mobley was able to meet with the lawyer and our leadership team to sort out the details of the past several months. There had been attempts to claim ownership that the lawyer successfully defended in our interests. One matter that came to the surface involves the need to verify the position of assermenté. Please pray for the team that will visit Haiti in April. There will need to be legal matters to settle with the Department of Cults in Port au Prince. Options dealing with the Mirebalais property must be discussed with the leadership team and our lawyer. Thank you for bringing these needs to the Throne of Grace.

*BRAZIL:* Thank the Lord for His healing touch on Bro. and Sr. Mills. Thank the Lord for another encouraging notice concerning Sophia's immigration papers. Steve received a mailed copy of the receipt of payments sent to Chicago along with the notation that all his papers have been received and they are working on them. Keep praying and believing!!

There were thirty-four young people participating in this year's youth camp. Two young men from Manacapuru were able to travel into Manaus for youth camp. These two young men are graduating this year. Both are very musical and have been a real blessing in the ministry at Manacapuru. Kezia mentioned that there were eight young ladies and twenty-six fellows this year. There were four young ladies from Manacapuru that wanted to come but were not able to do so. The two fellows from Manacapuru asked Bro. Mills if there could be something like the youth camp arranged for their village!!

The annual business meeting elected the same officers to the Brazilian Council. Thank the Lord for the growing stability and commitment of the leadership team in Brazil. Steve mentioned that Wilmer Paulus and Jacob Martin plan to visit the God's Missionary work there in Manaus. Bro. Mills will assist them with translation needs.

In conversation with Kezia, she mentioned that the young people were challenged to read the book of Genesis during school break. If they would complete this assignment by February 8th, they would qualify for a trip to town for pizza. Steve and Kezia are looking to call in another inlet that has around twenty young people.

Bro. and Sr. Mills ask prayer for Deuza and her son Barny. There is another mother, Heiane, and her children that need prayer. Bro. Mills would want prayer for wisdom in selling the Chevy Spin. Thank you for holding the ropes for the work in Manaus.

Laboring together with Jesus,

Rev. Ken Sickler, Conference Missionary Secretary



Youth Camp 2019 34 Participants



Indoor activity-Rafael's theme 'David's Valor'



Bravo Team



Delta Team



Charlie Team



Alfa Team