



News from

The Yelles

Serving the Lord in

Caxias do Sul, Southern Brazil



March 31, 2020

Dear friends,

Ministry is quite interesting these days. It is a new adventure for us, turning to social media to disciple our people and get the Gospel message out. Brazil has been practicing social distancing for two weeks now, with non-essential shops and restaurants closed, plus school and college classes suspended. President Bolsonaro has allowed for church congregating, but we have followed suit with the other independent Baptist pastors to hold off on congregating for now, following state and local guidelines. As of today, there are sixteen confirmed cases of the virus in our city, with only one hospitalized and seven already cured. Caxias do Sul is a city of 500,000 souls.



Youth Retreat

Activities in February included a short youth retreat and an outdoor baptismal service. Nine youth spent the night at our home, just days before the new year of classes began (summer break here is from December through the middle of February). Besides a Bible study and devotional, they had a great time riding horses, playing games, and just being out in the country with each other. The boys made chocolate chip cookies while the girls made themselves bracelets.

We baptized two on February 29, Otávio (8 yrs old), and Leandro (37 yrs). What a huge victory it was to see Leandro follow the Lord in believer's baptism. John led him to the Lord in the middle of 2019. He had been one of the youth involved in our ministry back around 2002.

On March 10th, Bibiana received Jesus Christ as her Savior. She is a young widow with two teenage daughters. Please be in prayer for her spiritual growth. She is very attentive to the Word, and has shown interest in God's perfect will for her life.

John has been teaching and preaching Sundays and Tuesdays online since March 22nd. Not wanting to neglect the children, Neila holds Bible lessons on Whatsapp. She teaches the same lesson twice the same afternoon, twice a week. One mom gave testimony of how it is a blessing, keeping the kids tuned in to God while they are on a forced vacation in the home.



Baptism of Leandro

Please be in prayer for the Brazilian people. Economically the country already was in bad shape. People are unable to work and have had to take forced vacation without pay. A few in our churches are in this situation.

We will be Stateside this summer, Lord willing, for our middle daughter's scoliosis surgery scheduled for June 1st. The plan is that Neila will stay for her recovery time, which could take up to three months. After the surgery, John will be back in Brazil for five weeks; and then return Stateside to spend about 6 weeks reporting to churches and prayerfully gaining some new support. The plan is for both of us to return to Brazil in mid-September.