



T.I.M.E - Training in Ministry by Extension

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

(Matthew 9:37-38)

Newsletter 03 - March 2010

FROM BOWIE (MD) TO BRAZIL

by Pastor David Taylor

We made our third trip to Brazil on January 17 to February 10, 2011. Each trip has been unique and wonderful. This one was especially so for me and my wife, Margaret. I had the privilege of speaking in 11 different churches (we were the first International visitors in 5 of them), and speaking to the youth and young adults at their Congress. We were on 2 radio stations and met with the President of a City Council. We stayed in many homes and were blessed by people not only opening their homes to us, but also opening their hearts. We truly felt “at home” and part of the family of Seventh Day Baptists in Brazil. We even were encouraged to make Brazil our home. That, my Brothers and Sisters, is up to the Lord. But be assured that your labors are not unnoticed by your Brothers and Sisters here in America.

One ministry that is exciting for me to see developed is the T.I.M.E. Program. I spent a weekend with 23 of your students and saw the commitment and intense desire to study the Scriptures, “rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” These students are receiving a quality theological education that is preparing them not only for the future, but for ministry today. Your Conference should be commended for its commitment to this program. You should be excited, as I am, that 2, maybe 3, new classes are being started. I am proud of the work that Pr. Jonas Sommer is doing as T.I.M.E. Pastor.

As more respond to God’s call to leadership, as new churches and ministries are established, T.I.M.E. will continue to be used by God to train those leaders, and bring many to salvation through Jesus Christ. Thank you for giving me the privilege of being a part of this great work for our God.

Sharing My Impressions of Our Brazil Trip

by Margaret Taylor

I have a notebook full of words that describe the tangible and visual similarities and differences between our two countries. Those intangible things of mind and spirit, however, are not so easy to describe. I pray for God’s guidance and direction as I try to write from my heart.

The overall impression that continually comes to me is one of traveling back in my own life time to a much calmer, more contented and less competitive environment; a time I can recall when personal feelings and opinions and material possessions did not so sharply define our worth and value.

T.I.M.E NEWS
BRAZIL

I was very impressed by the open and public expression of the Christian faith in Brazil. It is not only in the churches and in the homes of members we visited, but in places of business, also. For instance, the bold witness of the garage owner who repaired the bent wheel rim on the conference car during our trip was noteworthy. His only fee was a prayer for his family and business, and to share a song of praise to God. His was a strong testimony of faith in Jesus as his Lord.

Another instance in another place was a sheet of paper, taped to a public restroom wall, and on it was written a poem of prayer and praise to God for His love and grace and daily blessings. A large sign on the roof of a big city hotel declared "Jesus Christ is Lord". These things are no longer common in the U. S., much to our detriment.

My impression of the people was always one of love and acceptance. I often felt I was treated like royalty; given honor I had not earned, but truly appreciated. My prayer is that we were seen and welcomed, not from the novelty of visiting Americans, but as emissaries of Christ who had come to encourage and affirm His people among the struggles and burdens of everyday life.

We traveled from big city to small farm, from mountains to sea shore, and encountered all manner of life styles, poverty and wealth. In all of that, we still experienced a love and commitment to the Lord and to the Body of Christ in every home and in every congregation we visited. I pray that such will be the inheritance left to future generations and more so as the world presses in.

I was thrilled to see the numbers of young people and of women who made the commitment and sacrifice to attend the congress sessions, even though they were held separately from the regular conference sessions. I was delighted to be able to be there and to share with the women during their meeting on Sabbath. There were so many familiar faces and such a warm welcome.

We were impressed and give praise to God for the good number of men and women who have acknowledged the call of God on their lives and entered the TIME Program. It is good to hear that many more will be joining them soon. It is a great encouragement to us and a joy to report back to the people of our conference who support it.

I am personally encouraged and rejoice to see the evangelistic efforts in Brazil focused on commissioning leaders to go into new fields and plant more new churches rather than to grow much larger churches in the already established communities. Maintaining a sense of family and community, bonded together in the Spirit, is vital to the health and growth of a strong church. This is easier to accomplish where everyone gets to know each other and can work together.

There is so much I could say but will conclude with this thought. The message God gave me for the SDB women in Brazil was to make our lives a beautiful offering to God. He calls us to be peacemakers while being salt and light to a needy world. It is not an easy assignment but I want to say I can see the Light of God's love in the wonderful people we met while in Brazil. May God continue to bless and guide you as you strive to live for Him.



Acknowledgment

The Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Conference, during its latest Sessions, which took place in Curitiba, on February 1st - 4th, current year, officially recognized the T.I.M.E training course as a Graduation Course on Theology, being *intracorpus* (valid only within the Conference, according to Brazilian laws), bestowing to the graduates the title of "bachelors in theology".

The course, whose target is, at first, pastors, workers, consecrated and other leaders from Seventh Day Baptist Church, constitutes, from this year on, mandatory requirement for the new pastors and licensed preachers on ministry and it is also recommended for deacons.





Students of New T.I.M.E Class - South of Brazil - who attended the first meeting in Porto União SDB Church, on February 19th.



Worship Team of Guarulhos SDB Church.

Edonir and He-loise, with their daughter. Both are T.I.M.E Students, class 01, members of Garuva SDB Church.



New Class

On February 19, in the city of Porto União/SC, a new TIME class has started. They're 24 new students, coming from the cities of Porto União/SC, Canoinhas/SC, Novo Hamburgo/RS, Clevelândia/PR, Araucária/PR, Garuva/SC and Curitiba/PR.

It was amazing to see the interest of the students in learning more from the Word of God. Let us pray, so that the Lord of the Harvest continue to call people to his harvest and that we have new pastors and also trained people to lead the church.

May God enable and keep the new students motivated and encouraged in this important step they have taken, so that they can get to end of the training.

We ask each SDB brother and sister to keep a serious commitment in praying for this important ministry.

Northeastern Class

For the grace of God we have the perspective of starting a TIME class in the northeastern region of Brazil.

We will make an opening seminar on April 30 and May 1st, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in João Pessoa/PB. Our expectation is that we can have a good number of students in that region.

Ipanema Class

There is also the possibility of a new group in Ipanema/MG. We have some brothers interested in taking the TIME course in that city, because due to the distance - about 850 miles - they have no conditions to go south.

Next Seminars

Class 01

The next meeting of class 01 will happen on April 21, 22 and 23, 2011, in Bocaiúva do Sul/PR, for

the seminar about hermeneutics and homiletics. This topics which will be taught by Pr. Jonas Sommer, TIME director.

Class 02

Students of class 2011, who have started their studies in February 19 this year, have scheduled their meeting for the Old Testament Seminar, which will happen on August 21 and 22, at the Second SDB Church in Curitiba.

The lecturer will be Rev. Antonio Renato Gusso, PHD in theology by Methodist University and an expert in biblical languages.



Pastor Taylor teaching on Sabbath Theology for students, class 01.

Sabbath Theology Seminar

On February 05 and 06, in Curitiba/PR, the seminar about Sabbath Theology, Class 01. The special guest lecturer was Pastor David Taylor, from the USA.

It was a moment for intense learning to all students. We reaffirmed our confidence that the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, is the day chosen by God for worship and fellowship. It is the day that our Creator separated for us to sanctify it. We also learned that the Sabbath is relational, and not salvational.



Pastor Jonas, Pastor Taylor and Worship Team celebrating the Communion at SDB São Paulo Church.

Visit to the Churches

From January 17 to 22 Pr. Jonas, along with Pr. David Taylor and Margaret, visited the following churches and branches in São Paulo, the largest city of Brazil.:

GUARULHOS/SP. On January 19 we were at Guarulhos SDB Church for a blessed evening worship service. After the service, the church people prepared a special dinner. It was good to see again the brethren from that place, specially missionary Lucineide, who is coordinating the work in that region. We also were amazed with the praise group formed by teenagers.

DIADEMA/SP. On the evening of January 20 we attended a special service in Diadema. The brethren welcomed us incredibly well. We could also meet again Pastor Edvard and his family.

JAGUARÉ/SP. On Friday evening, 21, we visited Jaguaré SDB Church, where we were welcomed and also celebrated a special thanksgiving service.



Pastor David and Margaret, taking an ox wagon ride.

PATRIARCA/SP. At Sabbath morning, 22, we celebrated the Communion at São Paulo SDB Church, located at Patriarca neighborhood, with the participation of brethren from Guarulhos and Diadema. It was a remarkable day in the lives of all.

After these full days in São Paulo, we flew to Curitiba, spent the night at a hotel, and drove to visit the following cities:

DOIS VIZINHOS/PR. We were in Dois Vizinhos from January 23 to 26. We made memorable worship services in the church in “town”, and also at Church in Linha dos Alemães - a small farmers community. The Taylors even had the opportunity of ride in a wagon, pulled by some oxen.

SANTO ANTONIO DO SUDOESTE/PR. On January 26, we travelled to this city and attended the Wednesday prayer service. The church was full, and they even needed to put chairs in the hall. It was remarkable to see the temple entirely remodeled. We congratulate the brethren for the beautiful work accomplished. On Thursday, 27, Pastor David Taylor and Margaret were invited to be interviewed in the radio show hosted by Claiton Kollenberg, from Acessa FM. It was a good opportunity of spreading the name of the church in that city.

CANOINHAS/SC. Finishing the Churches tour, we were at Canoinhas SDB Church. Pastor Taylor preached at Church radio program, on Sunday, January 30, and then in their worship service. It rained a lot, but that didn't stop the brethren to come. They crowded the church, eager for hearing the Word of God. On Monday, February 01, Pastor David Taylor was invited for a meeting with the president of the City Council, Gilberto dos Passos.

Pastor David Taylor suggested a possible partnership between Canoinhas SDB Church, Brazilian SDB Conference and our American Brethren to build a new parsonage. Such offer was very well accepted by Pastor Sidnei, who, with Pastor Jonas help, is preparing the partnership project to be send to Pastor Taylor.

In all the places the message was in charge to Pastor Taylor and Pastor Jonas was the interpreter.

We're grateful to all brothers and sisters who have welcomed us so well.

May God allow us to spend other moments together.

Prayer Requests

1. For the new TIME Class - South of Brazil. May our Heavenly Father empower each student. May He also touch their hearts to a growing commitment with His Kingdom.
2. For the new classes to start in the Northeast and also in Ip-anema/MG.
3. Let us continue to pray for wisdom and guidance from God to Pastor Jonas and his family.
4. For the new Executive Board of Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Conference.
5. May our God speaks to our students, making clear His purpose for their lives.
6. For our churches that are without a pastor. May God calls more workers into His harvest.



T.I.M.E

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