

On the Wings of Prayer

“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in
the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice:”
Psalm 63:7

DEOSDETE

Salvation is the miraculous intervention of God's grace in favor of lost sinners!

Deosdete was not raised in an ideal family situation, and neither did he have any Christian influence in his life. He left home at a young age - and never having attended school - he did not learn how to read. All through his youth, middle years, and on into old age, he followed the ways of the world.

Circumstances brought him to the town of Presidente Figueiredo where Missionary Moises and wife Fatima work in the congregation that we founded in 2006, out of the 26th of November Baptist Church, a work we began in 1987. This has been one of our regional mission projects since 2003 - helping national churches found new works in the interior areas of the state of Amazonas.

Deosdete got involved with the local drug lord and established a distribution point in the area. This town is located on BR-174, about 80 miles north of Manaus, and is on the only north-south highway in the northern region of the Amazon; and therefore, an obvious drug corridor. Not satisfied with the amount of money he was taking in, he began a prostitution ring and then an illegal casino and gambling operation. He was taken down to the “depths of Satan” (Revelation 2:24), but God had a plan for his life. Missionary Moises has a gift, personal evangelism. He is known to go anywhere, anytime and is not at all embarrassed to witness to anyone. After many frustrated attempts, he led Deosdete to the Lord. At the time he was saved, he was barely alive and was recuperating from a near-death experience. While still in the local hospital, he had told his wife to call Moises and ask him to come visit him again.

Over the next few months, what a blessing it was to see him abandon his old lifestyle of drinking and sin. He stopped selling drugs, closed the prostitution house, shut down his gambling business, and decided to spend his Saturdays and Sundays in church.

He was baptized on July 9, 2016, at 5 p.m. by my brother Tim in the little stream that runs close by the congregation at KM-142, just before the inauguration services of the new auditorium there.

Deosdete is growing in the Lord; he attends the church services as faithfully as he can, despite his declining health situation. Diana and I drove up to this town, and I had the privilege of preaching the graduation ceremony for the students of the “Seven Doctrines of Salvation” Bible course on June 17, 2017. With much help from his wife, who can read, he had “struggled” his way through all the seven books together with her, and proudly received his diploma with the other 20 students who had finished the course. The look of joy on his face was a blessing!

It never fails to amaze us what God can do in the human heart. Deosdete is almost eighty years old; living proof of God's grace and love and the direct result of people reaching people. He is the fruit of YOUR “work in the Lord” (I Corinthians 9:1); YOUR “helping together by prayer” (II Corinthians 1:11); and YOUR love and concern to “preach the gospel in the regions beyond.” (II Corinthians 10:16).

-True Hawkins, IBFI Missionary to Brazil

- **Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** report a safe arrival to their home in Boa Vista after an eight month furlough. They report classes at the Bible institute have just completed this semester with eight students.
- **Leon and Becky Wambsganss (Accent Radio-retired)** Bro. Leon is confined to a wheelchair but, he is in good spirits. Please pray for the Wambsganss' health.
- **Darrain and Mari Coker (Mexico)** report three coming to Christ recently. The Coker's request prayer for wisdom in purchasing property for a church building.
- **John and Neila Yelle (Brazil)** report that their daughter Katherine has healed well after a recent car accident. The Yelle's request prayer for their two mission works and outreach ministries.
- **Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** continue to prepare Navajo men and women through the Ganado Baptist Bible College for full-time ministry. Two Navajo men who graduated have each begun a church plant.
- **Ron and Kathy Valerio (Dominican Republic)** request your prayers for lost Dominicans and God's blessings as the Valerio's seek to win them to Christ. The Valerio's were able to purchase a dependable car recently.
- **Daniel and Michelle Jones (Rio Grande Valley/Mexico)** continue to spread the gospel "to . . . the regions beyond." The church in McAllen, Bethesda Fundamental Baptist Church, are now supporting 24 missionaries. Bethesda Fundamental Baptist Church in Mexico now support 92 missionaries.
- **Larry and Regina McKinney (N.A. Indians)** are seeing souls saved with a high attendance of 80 at church. The McKinney's have just had a van donated, so more children will have the opportunity to come to church. The McKinney's request prayer for more opportunities to share the gospel and begin a new work.
- **True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** report that the pastor's breakfast was well attended with 23 present. The ladies fellowship had 33 in attendance. Bro. True continues to help the interior churches with their construction projects (remote towns in the jungle). The Lord continues to bless the churches the Hawkins have started in number and souls saved, as well as, those the institute graduates have started. There are 17 students studying at the Bible institute.

"Brethren, Pray for Us."

1 Thessalonians 5:25