



# The Smiths

## Missionaries to

# Brazil



**Bill and Sharon**

Dear Friends,

June, 2011

**May** – Rodrigo e Sofia were very happy to have their Mother come with them Sunday night for our Mother’s Day Program. We only had a total of three Mother’s since some of our regular ladies were traveling to be with their relatives this Sunday.

Sharon is teaching two teenage boys to play the keyboard piano. One of the boys has a piano to practice on but the other one doesn’t. One of the requirements is that they have to play a hymn for the church service.

We flew to Manaus on May 23 to help with the music program at the Bible Institute and with the Graduation on June 04, 2011. We had a good time getting to know the students and encouraging them to continue with their studies and to use what they have been taught. One man graduated with over 200 people attending. The students did well with the music and we praise the Lord for the opportunity to help.




We were presented with a plaque from the Mission in Brasil for 40 years of faithful service. Thank you Confraternidade Batista Mundial do Brasil.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> there was a Memorial Service for Bro. Joe Hawkins. There were over 600 that came and it was a very sad but happy time remembering Bro. Joe and how the Lord blessed him and his ministry in Brazil. Elaine Hawkins read a poem that Joe himself had written years ago and she thanked everyone for their prayers. Tim, John and True Hawkins gave remarks about their Father and I gave the closing words and led the group in a song that was used on the radio broadcast that reached to many areas of Brazil back in 1972.

**June** – We arrived back in Boa Vista June 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00am. Sunday school started at 8:30am so we didn’t get much sleep that night. We knew it was the rainy season in our area but we didn’t know how much it had rained until we heard that parts of our city and other areas were flooded. The Rio Branco (White River) overflowed its banks. Boa Vista was isolated from Manaus and other areas due to the flooding. The town of Caracarai where we started a Baptist Church was flooded and the church building had water ankle deep inside. The Pastor’s house also flooded and most of the church people had some kind of water damage. Praise the Lord the river has gone down and they are able to move back into their homes for now. Our churches here have helped them with money and food as well as other Baptist churches in Manaus. Gasoline and food is a problem since the road is still under water in some places and trucks can’t get through. Please pray for our State of Roraima and that many will see this as a reminder that God is in control and that they need to draw close to Him.



 June 12<sup>th</sup> was Sweetheart’s Day in Brazil. Bill and I were invited to a banquet with other Baptist Churches here in Boa Vista. We were presented with a trophy for being the couple married the longest – 41 years this August. We praise the Lord for allowing us to serve Him as a couple all these years.

**Thank You** – It is always with Thanksgiving that we send our prayer letters. Thanks to God for allowing us to serve Him and for allowing us to be a part of your ministry in praying and giving. The end of July will make 40 years that we have served as missionaries in Brazil. To God be the Glory great things He has done!

Your missionaries in Brazil,

*Bill and Sharon*