

**December** – We had the Pastors and their families come to our house for our Christmas meal on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Each family brought something, and we had a good variety of food. We had 16 total and it was a full house but good fellowship.

We attended the special Christmas service with Pastor Werlesson and his church Sunday night the 20<sup>th</sup>. Pastor now has a job at a construction store and is off every Sunday. His wife is working at a grocery store, and she has Sunday off as well. Each one gets home around 6:00pm. She works 2 blocks from their house. God is good.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a special meal at the Alvorada church, and each family brought something. The Brazilian people know how to prepare food and lots of it. Christmas day we were invited to have lunch with Pastor Rogerio and his family. Her parents, brother and 2 nephews are staying with them. They are from the Manaus area and due to Covid the city is on lockdown so they are not sure when they will be able to go back.

Pastor Rogerio had Covid and we had to cancel our church services for two Wednesday evenings and one Sunday. He is better now, and we started meeting again. More cases of Covid in our city so they ordered the churches to close again until February 15<sup>th</sup>. We can buy what we need. The Lord has protected us and kept us safe.

**January** – Bill celebrated his 72<sup>nd</sup> Birthday on January 8<sup>th</sup> We had a party for him at our house for the Pastors and families and then at the church on Sunday night the 10<sup>th</sup>. We planned on 40 people but had a total of 65. We gave balloons to the children and they sang to him at the end of the church service. Bill wore a bow tie, a hat and thick glasses. The kids really laughed.



We attended church with Pastor Paulo on January 17<sup>th</sup>. They had a good attendance. Both work full time and have been leading the church as well. Their son Paulo has been a real help to us with our computers when we have a problem. On January 31<sup>st</sup> we were sitting at my desk and the computer monitor began shaking and Bill went to the front door and the doors were shaking some. We later found out we had an **earthquake of 5.7**. People called us and told us they felt it as well. Venezuela, Guiana, and northern part of Brazil were affected. Wow. That was quite an experience.

Pastor Luiz and Rosa from Caracarai had to go to Manaus on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Her mother was in the hospital and not expected to live. She died Saturday morning. Rosa was not able to see her before she passed. They stayed in Manaus with family and some of them had the Covid. When Pastor and Rosa returned to Caracarai they both were sick. Several people in the church have had the virus and the town is on lockdown again with churches closed as well as businesses. They came to Boa Vista to be treated and Rosa had to sleep on a bed in the hallway for 2 days and finally was moved to another area. She has been on oxygen since January 25<sup>th</sup> and had a couple heart attacks and had to be put on a ventilator. **Rosa passed away February 3, 2021 and will be buried in Caracarai.** Please pray for Pastor Luiz and the family.

**February** - We are waiting to see what this month will bring. We know the Lord is in control and we are trusting Him and doing the things necessary to stay safe. No church services until the 15<sup>th</sup> so back to using our phones to hear the preaching and participating in song and scripture verses. The Gospel is still going out.

A special <u>**Thank You**</u> to everyone for your prayers. We are looking forward to this year of 2021 and for the blessings from the Lord. God bless each of you and keep you safe.

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Months of <u>December</u> THANK YOU! Your missionaries in Northern Brazil, *Bill and Sharon* 

Bill and Sharon Smith

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