

Dear Friends,

June 2023

**Updates from last Prayer Letter:** Bill is better from his cold and other problems back in April. We are having more rain and that means more colds and flu. Sharon had the shot in her knee but the problem with her walking still continues.

April - On April 29 and 30 we celebrated the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bible Baptist Church in Alvorada.

**5** Pastors of the 5 churches we started here in Brasil and the wives were present. Alvorada, Novo Airão, Santa Tereza, Bill and Sharon, Caracarai, and Caranã. The Pastor from Novo Airão was invited to be the main speaker.

We were so excited to have them all here that we forgot to take a picture other than this picture from a video of the song we sang "Trust and Obey". Over 100 in attendance.



May – Mother's Day was May 14<sup>th</sup> and we had 7 Mothers present. This year we had a special breakfast and the men and boys served the **mothers** and **ladies** that were present.

## <sup>50th</sup> Anniversary of the Bible Baptist Institute Amanzonas – May 26-27, 2023



We flew to Manaus to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Started by - Joe Hawkins and Cecil Henderson. We arrived as missionaries in Manaus in October of 1972. The Institute was started in 1973.

We had just started language school so only helped teach a few years later.

The Lord blessed the Institute and many men and women have graduated and are in full time service -Pastors, church workers, and Missionaries in Brazil and other countries.

Pastor Cecil Thayer from Massillon Baptist Temple in Massillon, Ohio, was one of the main the speakers for the Conference and for Graduation on Saturday. Kacy Ray, Cecil Thayer, True Hawkins, Tim Hawkins, Bill Smith, Jeremy Bennett and John Yelle are representing American Pastors (Ohio) and Missionaries in Northern and Southern Brazil.



These Pastors are graduates of the Bible Institute and are pastoring Churches in our state of Roraima and in Amazonas.

The lady on the right of the picture and her daughter came to the graduation. She was saved at the 1<sup>st</sup> church we started in Novo Airão. We had not seen her for 45 years. What a reunion!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support in the work of Missions. The Lord is still using His Word to change the lives of the Brazilian people.

Your missionaries in Northern Brazil,

## Bill and Sharon

Bill and Sharon Smith

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