



News from

The Yelles

Serving the Lord in

Caxias do Sul, Southern Brazil



May 31, 2024

Dear friends,

Southern Brazil has been in the US news lately. Rio Grande do Sul, the state we live in, suffered a devastating storm front the beginning of May, causing extensive flooding and destructive landslides. We live in the northern region of the state, in the sierras. Caxias do Sul was isolated from the capitol, Porto Alegre, due to dozens of landslides and bridges damaged on the routes up the sierra. Some routes will take many weeks of repairs to be passable. Our personal property suffered bridge damage as our normally tranquil stream turned into a small raging river. We will be replacing the bridge with a fortified concrete one. Praise the Lord most of the funds we need for the replacement work has already been provided through churches and individuals!

By God's grace, not one of our church members suffered loss, nor was our meeting place damaged. Aproximately 850,400 people were affected by the heavy rains in 345 municipalities in the state. This means that 70% of the municipalities were affected by the storms of which 60% were in the city of Canoas, where 350,000 had their homes flooded, many of them with up to nine feet of water. As of the writing of this letter, the flood waters in the Porto Alegre metroplex have still not completely subsided. The airport in the capitol city is closed due to the flooding. It is not expected to re-open until at least December, forcing us to have to leave for furlough out of a temporary airport setup which involves a shopping mall, buses, and the Brazilian Air Force base runway.



Part of the flooding in Canoas



Felipe being baptized

On a bright note, our Easter morning breakfast and church service was very well attended. There were thirty two in attendance. That evening, we held a baptismal service, baptizing five. At that service there were forty-five in attendance which included several first time visitors present to witness the baptisms.

In April we held our first of many married couples luncheon. Five couples attended, and we had four single ladies helping with serving the food. The theme of the Bible study given was "The Blessing of Marriage".

Speaking of marriage, Felipe and Luana, who were saved and baptized a few weeks ago, were married on May 24th! Please pray for their marriage and their growth in the Lord.

Our prayer requests:

- Discipleship of three families. Jonir and family, Robson and Sabrina, Vilma;
- Increased faithfulness of our church members here in Caxias do Sul;
- Bro. Jeremy Bennett's Portuguese language proficiency;
- Wisdom in all ministerial preparations for our absence during furlough;
- Meeting schedule filled quickly for our upcoming furlough.

Our flights to the USA are scheduled for July 30. There is a lot of work needed to be done still before we leave for a year, both with our personal property and with the ministry. We greatly value your prayers on our behalf and the ministry. Thank you for your care.

Until He comes,

John & Neila Yelle

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