



*Tim, Ingrid
Joshua, Rebekah*

The Ingrams Missionaries to Brazil



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Happy New Year! We have had a lot going on here! Around the middle of November, I received a message from one of our men that their marriage was in dire straits. It was on a Sunday afternoon. That evening, as I sat in the service with two of his daughters, ages 5 and 8, on either side of me, I wept. The thought of this family breaking apart was overwhelming. As I rose to preach, I was still weeping. I asked one of the men to read a passage of Scripture and asked the church to pray. I didn't tell the church what was going on, although some of them knew the situation. The Lord gave me the strength to preach but my heart was broken. On Monday night, I spent about an hour and half with this man while my wife took the children to McDonalds. The visit went really well. Mostly, I just shared with him what it meant to be man from a Biblical standpoint. That a man has to be unmovable and firm. The next evening, I met with Gabriel, who is recently divorced. He is the one who requested the divorce, but now regrets that decision. We met for about an hour and a half. This young man grew up in an independent Baptist church, but had gotten far away from God. We spoke about what it means to be a man from a Biblical standpoint. Right after meeting with Gabriel, I met with Mateus. He is 20 years old and is looking for direction. His parents go to church, but his father isn't the spiritual leader in his home. As you may have guessed, we spoke about what it means to be a man from a Biblical perspective.

After these three meetings, I realized I needed a different strategy. Most of the men in our church grew up without fathers. Many didn't have an example of what it means to be a man. I realized that most of our men needed help in this area. On Wednesday night, I invited all of our men to a men's meeting the next Monday night. We had 15 men come out. I began teaching them what it means to be a man from a Biblical standpoint and how to become the man God wants them to be. Please pray for our men's ministry. There is a great need in this area. It has been a challenge and a blessing to prepare the lessons each week to strengthen and fortify our men.

The response of our men has been incredible. These meetings have transformed our church. Our services have gone from about an hour and half to over two hours, and our people stay and fellowship for another hour. Because of the longer services and increased attendance, we are currently in need of new chairs, and could soon be in need of a larger place to meet. New chairs will cost the church around \$3800. Please pray for this need, as it would be a huge blessing to our people.

Leonardo and his wife, whose marriage was in dire straits, are there for every service. She even brought her organ to church, and plays for the services. She recently gave a testimony that she didn't know what was going on at the men's meetings, but it had changed her home.

Gabriel arrived at church two weeks ago with his ex-wife. He didn't know she was coming, but when he went to pick up his son, Pedro, to take him to church, Bruna was ready. They came to our house for lunch and she came back for the evening service. We were able to sit down with both of them. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and that the Lord would restore their marriage.

We baptized two couples and they were added to the church. Please pray for Ricardo and Rosana and for Adilson and Mônica as they continue to grow in Christ.

We had a Christmas tea for the ladies. We had around 70 in attendance with over 30 visitors. The ladies outdid themselves with the decorations and food. The Gospel was clearly presented, hearts were touched.

Our young people wrote and presented a Cantata for Christmas based on Luke 2 and Matthew 2. They did a great job and were very excited. We had several visitors present who heard the Gospel.

We have another couple who have been attending for a while, Gabriel and Danielly. They were dating like the world when they started coming. After coming for a while, God began dealing with them and they decided to please God with the way they were dating. Then, they decided they needed to get married. Ingrid and I sat down with Danielly early last week and confirmed that Danielly was saved. Later in the week, Gabriel received Christ as his Saviour. Please pray for them that God would guard them and protect them until they get married. Please pray for us as we counsel them. We are hoping to baptize them in the coming weeks and prepare them for their wedding, which is in February.

Family - Our lives are increasingly filled with ministry needs. We need much wisdom and grace to balance the different areas of our lives. Prayer needs:

- wisdom in schooling Joshua and Rebekah.
- wisdom to balance ministry, schooling, and family
- that the Lord would continue to work in Joshua and Rebekah, and that the Lord would be very real to them.
- wisdom and strength for Ingrid and all the responsibilities she has.
- that the Lord would fill me with His Spirit and use me to minister to the people here.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support. We are ever mindful and thankful for all that you do for us. Thank you for all of the Christmas gifts that were sent.

Serving Christ in Brazil,
Tim Ingram

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