

The Lord may not definitely have planned that this should overtake me, but He has most certainly permitted it. Therefore, though it were an attack of an enemy, by the time it reaches me, it has the Lord's permission, and therefore all is well. He will make it work together with all of life's experiences for good--C.H. Welch

I am walking out of church one night during our third week of revival when a lady stops me and asks me if I remember who she is. I recognize her as the wife of one of four men who were baptized last Sunday night. Her family and some of their friends have been regular visitors to our revival. So far, nearly every one of them has been in the altar, praying and repenting of their sins. One more is planning to be baptized the coming Sunday night.

I tell her that yes I remember seeing her most nights of the revival. No, she says, I recognize you from a few years ago; do you remember the lady who died at the bread store? Now my mind wanders back to nearly 3 years ago to shortly after I arrived in Maceió for the first time. A group of us had spent the morning in prayer and fasting and was about to begin inviting people to the service that night when a lady approaches us. She explains to us that she is on her way to prayer meeting, but doesn't feel too good, we look like Christians, can we pray for her. We pray for her and she goes into the small bread store across the street from the church. Finding ourselves thirsty, I went into the bread store to buy something for us to drink. Before I even realized what was happening, the lady for whom we prayed for has a heart attack. As some are trying to find a way to get her to the hospital, another sister and I are at this lady's side praying and trying to keep her from falling. The church van arrives then and she is taken to the hospital where they pronounce her dead.

I stood in the church praying, not quite realizing what had happened. Had someone really just died right there in my arms? Later, her family is found. The next day, someone wakes me up and says let's go; the family has asked us to help with her funeral. I remember while getting ready thinking, Lord, what am I doing here; can I really do this. Funerals in Brazil are preceded by a wake, which is the family staying with the body until it is buried 24 hours later. Bodies are not embalmed in Brazil. I sat during the 3-hour funeral of this lady where we showed the love of God to her family, wondering what the Lord's purpose for our meeting a woman a few minutes before her sudden death without the chance to share with her the salvation of God.

Yet, God has a purpose. The lady who I am talking to outside the church says, I remember you from that day; you gave me a tract and invited me to church as I saw your church help that family with the funeral. Seeds were planted that day.

"...and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." When we cast our crowns before the One on the throne, we are admitting and declaring that it was He who made it possible. Because of Him, we are victorious.

Dear Friends,

Last month has been a month of blessings and sad times combined. Roses always come with thorns. On February 6, Sister Agnes Taylor went home to be with the Lord. We saw a great prayer warrior make her journey home and as we laid her in Brazilian soil. We felt the precious, calming hand of our Lord and his sweet presence. As we sang, *Oh, I Want to See Him*, Sister Taylor's favorite song, we felt the assurance of God's love and the hope that one day we will see her again.

We were in revival for two weeks in our home village. Every night, we had between 15-20 visitors. Several were in the altar praying and repenting of their sins. One man testified of God's protecting power as a man went to rob him and in the process tried to shoot him twice. The bullets would not come out of the gun. After our two-week revival, we immediately started another revival in the village of Santos Dumont, where each night the house was full with many of our visitors coming faithfully to each night of revival. In the afternoon before the services, we spent time passing out tracts, inviting the village to church that night.



God answered prayers with a Sunday School teacher for the village of Santos Dumont. Last week, the Sunday School restarted. Our Sunday School teachers' learning session went quite well as we were taught several songs, how to tell a story and get the attention of the kids for the purpose of touching their lives with the Word of God each week.



The roof is now up in our Tabuleiro church! After several weeks of work, we are moving along with a major construction project on the church that will allow us to continue having services during the rainy season. We are still working on replacing doors, windows, flooring, and putting a ceiling in. God blesses and continues to provide the needed funds for the work. Any who would like to participate in the giving to the construction of this work; it would be greatly appreciated.

Every year in Brazil in the month of February, the “world” celebrates Carnival, which means “a feast of the flesh.” In the mean time, the children of God take time away to celebrate the Lord and have fellowship and fun. Amongst the games and food, we Bible studies, praise, and worship and even stories and puppet shows for the kids. A backslider returned to the Lord one night while God touched us with His presence.

Please remember little Gabriel Alvear in prayer. Once again, the doctors are saying that he needs an operation to survive. His heart is badly damaged, without the surgery; the doctors say he could die. With the surgery, there is also the same risk. He turned 4 years old in January. Please pray for him and his family this month as the surgery could take place in as little as two weeks.

Continue praying for the work in Northeast Brazil that the Lord would continue to bless and open doors to minister the Gospel to the Brazilian people. Pray for strength and health for the many who work with us, especially for Brother and Sister Alvear who have given many years and their health for the salvation of the Brazilians.



God bless you all,

Sister Amy North

