

The tests of life are to make, not break us. Trouble may demolish a man's business but build up his character. The blow at the outward man may be the greatest blessing to the inner man. If God, then, puts or permits anything hard in our lives, be sure that the real peril, the real trouble, is that we shall lose if we flinch or rebel--Maltbie D. Babcock

Brothers and Sisters,

In the midst of trials and tests, I may not see the hand of God working against our adversaries or moving mountains, but with a certainty God is there and He is working. A Brazilian song says, when God is silent, that usually means that He is working, so we need to praise Him. Whatever happens, we need to praise Him. The scripture in Philippians 4 agrees, "Rejoice in the Lord, always, and again I say, Rejoice." Another verse also exhorts "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God..." (1 Thes. 5:18). Paul also says in Ephesians, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God..." As many of the family and church struggle with the suffering of Sister Agnes Taylor, we look up to God's hand for both strength and grace. She has suffered with a 9-month illness after her stroke and more than a month in a Brazilian hospital, between this world and the next. Her home going could be anytime now. For us, her leaving will be great sorrow, but for her, joy beyond measure.

Construction at the church in Tabuleiro is moving along slowly, but steadily as we begin to replace the roof of our church in that village, so when the rains come we are still able to have service. We are also raising the roof and tearing out another wall to enlarge the sanctuary. We are also making new benches. I thank those who have generously given to make this construction project possible. Other financial blessings have made it possible to buy a small cd player for our Sunday School and Puppet ministry for our children.

While in Construction, we have begun having street meetings or home meetings in different places throughout the village of Tabuleiro. Our first was a few weeks ago, in the street in front of the house of Bro Barbosa and Sis Lucia (we also celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary). There were several visitors, a sweet presence of the Lord and several neighbors listening either from their front porch or in their homes. We held another at the home of Bro Carlinhos' family. We spoke of the love of the Lord to his Catholic family and brought the Word of Truth to their hearts. The Sunday afterwards, his cousin visited us in service at our headquarters' church. Pray for boldness to share God's Word and the right weather to be able to continue to have outdoor services' until the church is finished.

I was able to return to São Miguel this past week. The young girl, who prayed through last time I was there, is faithful. She brought along her backslidden sister, who also came back to the Lord just over a week ago! God is moving. We baptized a young lady, the wife of one of our faithful men, in the precious name of Jesus Christ. New Year's Eve, one more lady, the grandmother of one of our Sunday School kids was also baptized.



The Sunday night before New Year's Eve our celebration for the children, which also included our adolescent group, had nearly 60 children attending. We ended the old year with little presents for the children, the Bible story of how the Lord brought a Savior into the world to save sinners, an impromptu puppet show given by the adolescent group to the children, and of course cake and treats for both the teachers and the kids. In 2005, our adolescent group will be busy every Sunday the first few months of the year, preparing a news account of the early church, which I hope to instill into their hearts the message of that first church. The Lord answered prayers with two more Sunday School teachers volunteering to teach in the villages of Ouro Preto and Tabuleiro, along with our Sunday School here in our home village. The Sunday School in Ouro Preto restarted with around 10 children. The Tabuleiro Sunday School had six their first day back and grew to 11 by the next week, it has been delayed because of construction. In our home village, we have between 6-12 children every week. The last Sunday in March, we have planned a Children's service, where the children will sing, testify, and preach.



Recently, two men who work with us in the Community, repented during the Morning Prayer meeting. We are planning a two-week revival with services every night in our headquarters' church January 26 through February 6. We have printed over 10,000 fliers to invite the members of our village to these services. Pray that it will be a time of spiritual renewal for the church and time of salvation for the lost.

Friends, I ask you to join me in prayer for these requests:

- **Upcoming trip to the States**-This summer, I will once again be returning to do deputation work. Since I will only be home for a short time, I am starting early to schedule. I would love the chance to come by your church to fellowship with you again, if not to meet you for the first time. I am available between July 6th and August 7th. If you are interested in having me come by, please respond to northbrazilmissions@yahoo.com or call Sister Melissa Foster at (765) 524-2275.
- **Convention in May**-Our Convention will be the first weekend in May. Please be in prayer that the Lord would bless the people greatly at that time, with many souls filled with the Holy Ghost and baptized in Jesus' name.
- **Prayer for vehicle**-Continue to pray for the need of a reliable vehicle for the work. If any would feel led to give towards this need, please earmark the check. With 800 dollars, I would be able to put a down payment on a small car.
- **Prayer for Sunday School buildings**-The next construction project that the Lord has laid upon my heart is the building of an adequate Sunday School building near our headquarters' church. With 1000 dollars, we could build a large two-room facility with bathrooms. The children are in need of a definite well ventilated place for Sunday School. At this time, we have no certain place reserved for Sunday School, many times resolving to have it outside when another place is not found.

I thank those who are faithful in giving to the work in Brazil. Without your sacrifice, mission work would surely suffer. I am blessed by those who have written to me kind words of encouragement. I appreciate your prayers. I am greatly in need of them, above all else. I know the real source of my blessings is Jesus Christ, although many times, He uses you (His people) to supply the needs and bless His children in another country. As you continue to give, more doors are opened to me to spread this Gospel of Truth to the Brazilian people. Without a few dollars for bus tickets, gas money, light and water payments, Bibles and something as simple as paper, doors would be closed. Yet, God has opened the door through your giving always at the right time. I remember my pastor giving me wise advice, saying, "Amy, you wait for God to open the doors and when He opens them, it is simply your responsibility to go through them." From day to day, I never know what opportunity lies ahead for me to reach a soul. I ask you to pray for the Lord to open my eyes to the possibilities and give me the courage to take those steps through the open doors.

To see souls saved,

Sister Amy North



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