

Robert & Jane Kilko

BAPTIST MESSIANIC MINISTRIES

Autumn News 2007

Dear friends,

People have contacted us, wondering how they got off our mailing list. They didn't. There just have been no general news letters from us since a year ago! We are so sorry. The time got away from us. We have kept up with supporting churches and individuals, largely electronically, but also via paper letters to those with no e-mail access. We send out a regular mostly monthly E-mail "Thank you/Newsletter" letter, called *News from Niterói*, also, Jane writes a letter which she calls *Jane's Journal* that is meant to be a weekly and was started to just keep immediate family updated but which has grown to include quite a few people. If you would like to be included on either of these lists, than please contact us at: robertjanekilko@terra.com.br and we will include you.

Our ministry year falls into a basic pattern, now that we have been here in Rio for seven years. The Life and Peace Baptist Congregation meeting here at Beit Chaiyei Shalom is four years old. We often give you lists of activities and facts. Rather than review the calendar of events for the past year, we would like to share a few scenes with you this time, from around Beit Chaiyei Shalom.

Sunday mornings about 8:45 we open the Beit Chaiyei Shalom gate. Often, there are marmosets (small "monkeys") in the trees down by the gate. The Sunday School of the Life and Peace Baptist Church begins at 9:00 a.m. The first to arrive is usually Neuma and her three children. She and her husband, Araújo, were baptized in May 2004. Neuma is very faithful. Araújo, a baker, works a lot, comes to church a little, and is still struggling with some sinful habits from before he was saved. The children have grown in the three years since we met them, when we got back from furlough. Isabela is now 11 and has moved up to the older Sunday School class. Her brother, Igor, is only a year behind, and is in Rani's class. Filipe is six and in Rita's class. He began school in February (the beginning of the school year in Brazil) and he has really settled down. [The other week in prayer meeting, Filipe copied the whole title to the message outline which was projected on the screen. He wrote it in cursive letters, as Brazilian children learn first to write and then to print. That was quite an effort, so he filled the rest of his page with pictures, but before, he couldn't even be quiet during a service.] We sing choruses, and then divide into classes. Neuma stays in the auditorium, where Pastor Robert is the teacher. He is presently going through *Church Administration* by Paul Jackson. After Sunday School, the children and young people stay another 20 or 30 minutes for choir practice.

On Sunday nights, our service begins at 6:30 PM. This time of year, it is already dark when people arrive. The people enjoy the singing at the beginning of the service. Robert usually leads it. Jane accompanies on the pump organ. One of our teenagers, Thiago, plays the flute very beautifully. He plays along with the singing. While Jane was gone for two weeks in August to visit our grandchildren, he was "the" accompaniment! We have started having a Bible quiz each Sunday night, to increase interest, and as a teaching tool. So far, the nightly winners of the sword drill have been mostly young people. The people are learning to ask intelligent questions with yes or no answers in the "Who am I?" game. They're learning a lot, too. After the message, we have a fellowship time, and the last Sunday of the month, we celebrate birthdays.

At our recent New Year **retreat for Jewish People here at BCS**, our three "regulars" came. Linda (born in Rio, but raised in Lebanon, serving in the Israeli Air Force at the time of Independence) is now 79. She believes, but doesn't want the Jewish community to know. Lydia is "only" 77. She was born in Egypt and came to Brazil as a young married mom. Maurice, 60-something, was born in Egypt and came to Brazil as a teenager. Lydia and Maurice have had a lot of exposure to believers, and claim to be saved, but still need growth and understanding. All arrived in Rio in the early 1950's. Sometimes the discussions flow in French. Sometimes in English. A good part of the time in Portuguese. We also hear Arabic as well as Hebrew. Besides the twice a day teaching sessions, we talk around the table - for a long time! We talk about a lot of things, but there are always questions about the Bible. It is amazing the misinformation which is floating around which needs to be corrected by good Biblical teaching, much of it informal. Two gentiles who have a real understanding of and love for Jewish people also spent the weekend.

Field Address: Caixa Postal 107054 • 24361-970 Niterói, Rio de Janeiro • Brazil
Mission Address: Baptist Mid-Missions • P.O. Box 308011 • Cleveland, Ohio 44130-8011
Home Address: 69 Safford Street • Madison, Ohio 44057

E-Mail Address: robertjanekilko@terra.com.br

The weekend folks are always anxious to see "who else" will be coming for the Saturday afternoon "Encounter". Nine others came in September. The Jewish people really enjoy being with the church people during Sunday School, are always anxious to see "who else" will be coming for the Saturday afternoon "Encounter." Nine others came in September. The Jewish people really enjoy being with the church people during Sunday School, and occasionally, they stay over until Monday, so they get to be here for the evening service as well. You should hear the Brazilian Sunday School kids sing the Hebrew songs that we always use on the "retreat Sunday." They're all looking forward to Succot (Feast of Tabernacles) next month.

We have gotten several phone calls in response to our **Jewish New Years card and letter**. We were invited to go have coffee with Natan and Ziva, who we met on the kibbutz in Israel in 1997-98. They now live back in Rio, and have an electronics store. Jane talks to Mary on the phone, listens to her family problems, reads scripture and prays. She needs the Lord. A former Jewish neighbor, now a widow, from São Paulo even called us. And there are others.

Please praise the Lord with us for these blessings too good not to share:

✧ Pastor Yuri Alfaro was the speaker at our Youth Retreat during Carnival (02/25-03/01). Yuri is a pastor in Cuenca, Equador, and is married to our niece, Sarah. The extended Kilko Family paid the way for the Alfaro Family to be with us. Yuri's preaching on the Armor of God was a blessing to the 35 young people plus staff who attended. A number of our personal friends gave a one-time gift so that ALL the campers got a discount!

✧ Our Passover Seder and weekend were a blessing, culminating on Resurrection day. We had our Resurrection morning service on the grass under the trees, followed by breakfast. We had a good group out for that.

✧ We had the BJU soccer team from South Carolina back again this year. More doors were opened, including the school where Rani is a student. They played with the school team. Much time was spent talking to students at an English school.

✧ Our youngest daughter, Elice, spent the three months of her summer vacation with us, helping to entertain guests, and helping with the ministry. Back at Faith Baptist Bible College now for her second year, the Lord is providing her needs. A supporting church paid for her trip here.

✧ Jane had a wonderful 2-week trip to the US in August, paid for by one of our supporting churches, to visit the grandchildren. We had three new ones this year! That makes four.

Please pray with us for:

✧ Genuine growth and understanding for Linda, Lydia and Maurice. Also for Yvonne, who comes occasionally. Vera Lucia "was an evangelical" and is going back to her Jewish roots and admits being "very confused." Davi, who with his family is hoping to "make Aliyah" (immigrate) to Israel, believes in "Jesus, but not the Trinity." Edson is a Jewish believer who is fading back into the Jewish community.

✧ Salvation of Jewish people: Natan & Ziva, Mary, Walter (Linda's son) and Raquel (his cousin).

✧ For our young people to be faithful to the Lord during their adolescent/teen years: Felipe, Flavio, Thiago, Rani, Isabela, Gabriel, Igor. We are beginning a bi-monthly youth group for these kids.

✧ Faithful adults: Araújo and Neuma; Sueli and Luis (awaiting baptism when Luis is home from his long-distance job as a plane mechanic); Rita and Jorge. Salvation of husbands: Ramiro, Jorge (Maria's husband), Fred.

✧ Planning for future events: Youth Camp in February 2007, Outreach during Pan Am Games here in Rio in July 2007.

✧ Weekly church activities, Organization of the congregation into a church.

✧ Monthly retreats for Jewish People, and contacts in between.

✧ Ricardo, who will be doing his Apprenticeship with us during his summer vacation (Dec. - Feb.) before his last year at Bible College in Curitiba.

✧ Physical health and strength for the two of us.

✧ Additional support we must raise.

✧ Marcus and Elizabeth Curtis (our son-in-law and daughter) are appointees with Baptist Mid-Missions and are raising support to come to Brazil to work with us. Please pray them here!

We sense your prayer for us and we are grateful. Please continue.

Shalom! *Robert and Jane Kilko*