

# **John and Joyce Larrabee - Missionaries to Brazil**

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Dear Friends,



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! Have we thanked you lately for praying? If not, thank you. God is answering.

When we were in Manaus a month ago, we got a call from a friend there that had **intervened in a fight between a "living together" couple**. He asked if, the next time we were in Manaus, John would counsel with them. He did not know that we were already in town! We went right over that night, and God is already working there. Two weeks later they scheduled a couple's conference with John for the families that live in five adjacent condo towers. It was held in the social center and more came than they had planned. Almost all were unsaved people and there was a strong response of interest. John had the chance to counsel several people and one lady has already accepted the Lord as a direct result. Last Wednesday, before flying to the States, John had a wonderful opportunity to counsel this new believer. **Pray for Naila.**

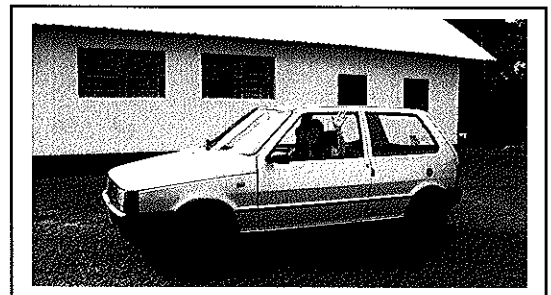
Two Saturdays ago, just before Bible club started, **one of Joyce's English students** stopped by to talk to John. He is very religious, but he and his wife are having some major problems right now. He said he did not know of anyone else in town that could help him. John met with him after club. He did not pray to receive the Lord then, but John gave him some things to read, and they got back together Sunday afternoon. After a time, the man **bowed his head and trusted Christ** as his all-sufficient Savior, apart from any religious thing he could do. His wife still refuses to see herself as a lost sinner, but recently they were both in English class, looking totally miserable. We have been showing "Fireproof" for devotions for the last few days, and its message really hit home with this couple. The man was in tears, and the woman was fighting them off. Please pray that God will get past her religion and save her. After class John received a text message from the wife thanking him for helping her husband "change his behavior." Won't you **pray with us for Joe and Marlene?**

The next week just before class, a 19-year-old girl who grew up under our ministry came and asked John to read the Bible with her. She has been away from the Lord, and after some time of talking and praying, she got right with God. Whoo! He just keeps on blessing! **Amanda is up against some huge struggles.** Pray for her.

We are working here in Urucurituba on Sunday mornings now instead of going out to Rice Lake. We have had to temporarily shut down the work there because the water is so low people cannot get there, and visitation is virtually impossible. **The low water has broken all records.** Remember, the Amazon rises and falls about 40 feet every year. This year it has fallen far beyond that. One family that fishes for a living said that when they went to the part of the lake where they usually work, it was just mud with thousands of dead fish stuck in it. In Mt. Horeb a few people tramp through the jungle to come, but it is hard--you never know what might be lurking there in the dark. But God is blessing Alcideles' faithfulness in going every week, and two were saved there recently.

Of course, where God is working, **the enemy is fighting.** We have had to talk with three of our teens about dating unsaved people. Pray! One of our teen boys who had dropped out and gone into the world sought John out and said he wants to renew his walk with the Lord. He has started coming again. Another young man came back who was part of things when we first arrived here years ago. He is now married and has two boys. He said he is coming back and wants to get right with God—and **he has been coming with his whole family!**

**John is now in the USA** and will stay until mid-January. As some of you have heard, Alcideles was not able to go, as his visa application was denied. For several reasons, we can now see that God was in that decision. Our American visitor, **Gloria Clarke, is a tremendous blessing.** She came on October 5, and plans to stay until late-March. Joyce and Gloria have been able to make regular visits, thanks to those who helped provide **Joyce's shiny silver Fiat.** The results have been encouraging.



**Johnny** continues as Minister of Music at East North Street Baptist Church in Greenville, SC. He and **Margarite** and their daughter **Josie** (age 6) send greetings to all. **Christine** and her two, **Jonathan** (14) and **Maddie** (12) are doing well in Michigan, where Christi works at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. **Linelma** (24) is finishing her fifth semester at Ambassador Baptist College. **Max** (22) just got a new job at the mall in Manaus.

Pray for us. God has really been leading John's steps since he landed on November 25. This is the first Christmas in 42 years that we are apart. We know that we are **doing God's will**, but we still miss each other. Again, Merry Christmas to all!!

Love in Christ,

John and Joyce