

Summer News 2009

**Evandro & Elina Batista**

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Dear Partners,

Greetings from Montijo and Miratejo! Hope you are enjoying your summer experience as we are. God is so good!

Diabetes 2 has caused a major change in my personal life since October of last year. I'm still learning to adjust to a new and restricted diet, daily pills intake, and regular physical exercise. Dr. Teresinha was pleased with the stability of my blood sugar level last June. She isn't happy about my liver condition, and she requested an echocardiogram of the liver for our next check-up in September.

Upon our return to Portugal from Dallas, I sensed that our church was ready to move onto the next step in their spiritual growth. Our Annual Meeting in February went well, and we started to prepare ourselves for a special Evangelism Program in March.

We emphasized personal evangelism during our regular services. On Saturdays we had special outdoor meetings at different locations in our county, including public parks where athletic activities were done and our church choir sang. Gospel tracks were distributed and people were invited to our regular services. The blessing of seeing many of our church folks actively participating on different ministries was truly a blessing.

Easter Sunday before our evening service, I asked our Coral Group to sing three different Easter songs outside our building to our neighbors and by passers. They started singing Celebrate Jesus and two other songs. Some neighbors verbally thanked us for the "show" and gave us a hand clap.

Four new precious persons were added to our church in March-May. Maria de Jesus (Mary of Jesus) and Jeferson confessed Jesus as their Savior a result of our evangelistic efforts; Paulo and Isa Vieira opened their hearts to Christ through personal evangelism. We can only thank God for blessing us and you for praying for us regularly.

This past July 5<sup>th</sup>, we were shocked by the death of a young man from our Youth Group. Elias made a few wrong choices in his Christian life choosing the path of his unsaved friends. His mother had asked him to go to our Sunday School Class, and take his younger brother with him. Instead he went to a party in one of our local beaches. After eating and drinking, Elias and two of the guys challenged each other to swim to the other side of Tejo River. At a certain distance two of them decided to return to shore and called Elias to return with them, but he would not back off and shortly after he was drowned. His body was found three days later. At his funeral service I had the opportunity to preach the Gospel to a shocked and reverent audience. I often think of what Jesus says in John 15:6, but of course, only God knows what he did with Elias and why.

Last Sunday, July the 26, I baptized Diogo, Sandra, Paulo and Isa. Then we had our special service and celebrated the Lord's Supper with the four new members of our church!

We plan to return to New Jersey this November on furlough, and look forward to visit all of you next year. We ask our supporting pastors to please let us know as soon as possible when they would like to have us come and present our report to your church family. Thank you.

In conclusion of this long epistle, we want to once again thank you kindly for your faithful prayers and your sacrificial support.

Serving God with gladness,

*Evandro & Elina Batista*

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