



Railson & Heidi Gil

developing Brazilian community;
building the Body of Christ

News from the Field
2nd Quarter, 2009

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Missions for Life: Endless Opportunities to Sow

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Check out our new web site:
www.brazilministry.com

You can sign up there to receive our newsletters and ministry updates by email. Due to poor Internet access, we are not always able to keep our web page as up-to-date as we would like. Please be patient with us!

Missions resides deeply in the heart of Christ's followers. Missions is sharing the mystery of abundant life through giving to others what no human being alone is able to impart. As a new creation it's natural for us to be *given* to giving. As Bill Johnson so keenly points out, everything God made is a giver—plants, air, trees, sun, and most certainly, His sons and daughters.

Recently, we received an e-mail newsletter from a large religious organization. Its headline made us chuckle: "*Missions Week; Last Chance to Give.*" While we appreciate the motivational intent of the letter, as missionaries we are truly grateful that missions is much more than a week-long fundraising campaign. It's a life. And you can be sure there will always be plenty of chances to give!!

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Because Miracles Happen

We are believing for one!

Fabricsia is one of Railson's second cousins. She is also one of the few people on the planet diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia, a congenital condition which causes her nerve fibers to waste away. When she began to have obvious trouble with her coordination at 10 years of age, her parents suspected a serious problem. Now at 15, she cannot walk on her own and spends most of her time in a wheel chair. Doctors confirm that there is no known cure, since the DNA of every cell in her body is faulty. The family has been advised that patients with Friedreich's Ataxia rarely reach 40 years of age.

In pursuit of funds for experimental treatment, Fabricsia's predicament has been well publicized in the region. She has had her face on posters and her name on the radio. Everywhere she goes, people know her. The way we look at it, she has been divinely set up for a significant healing—one which will be a sign to



Please see *Because Miracles Happen* on page 3

Prayer Agenda

“It is clear that he does not pray, who, far from uplifting himself to God, requires that God shall lower Himself to him, and who resorts to prayer not to stir the man in us to will what God wills, but only to persuade God to will what the man in us wills.”

Saint Thomas Aquinas

Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.

-Corrie Ten Boom

1. **Financial providence.** We are in emergency mode. Support dropped considerably in 2009, as did the exchange rate. Tent-making activities are at about 50% of expected. We sold our house but still have some considerable debt. Legal processes are at a standstill and the possibility of us receiving the remaining funds from the sale of the business is becoming more and more remote.
2. **Nutrition clinic.** We desire greater community impact, legalization for Heidi’s registration with the Brazilian board of dietitians, and funding for an independent clinic and food bank.
3. **Direction for the church.** The pastoral couple from Paz were forced to leave in June because of past legal issues with the building and extreme pressure on the family. Now the church has no place to meet. Members are wounded and confused. For now, we are holding home church (at least the kids love it!). Talk about spiritual warfare! This is the third time the congregation has been forced to face a major trial.
4. **A miracle for Fabrícia.** Physical as well as spiritual salvation. Pray specifically for a hunger for God, increased faith and a desire for abundant life. Rebuke a spirit of infirmity and death.

[photo: armed Brazilian soldiers]

In the News: Brazil Under Stress

This photo was taken from a recent issue of the Brazilian magazine IstoÉ. Crime and violence in Brazil are taking their toll on the mental health of the Military Police force. Psychologists confirm that half of Rio’s police are at risk of developing mental disturbances such as post traumatic stress syndrome, depression, aggressiveness and panic attacks. In São Paulo, only three psychologists are available to evaluate 100,000 men. That’s unsettling news, considering that these guys are required to carry firearms on their routine rounds.

From *Because Miracles Happen* on page 1

the hundreds of people who have been touched by her story.

The moment we heard of Fabrícia's problem, a strong spirit of faith and compassion rose up in us. Since then, we have been unable to believe that Fabrícia will spend the remainder of her life slowly dying. **And now the Lord has really set one up: Fabrícia has come to live with us!** Since our home *just happens to be* wheelchair accessible as well as the nearest to the physical therapist's clinic, we have the privilege of being her host for the next few months. That means we are able to lavish Christ's compassion on her every day and watch her understanding of His miraculous power grow.

Sometimes a bad report is just what it takes for people to throw themselves desperately at the feet of Jesus. Since Fabrícia arrived in early June, she has gotten acquainted with the Bible and has heard many testimonies of incredible healings. Her faith is beginning to rise! For the first time, Jesus is a real friend, not just a religious icon. Being away from her relatives and the constant discouraging doctors' reports, has put her in a position to evaluate for herself what she believes. **She is learning to trust Jesus.**

The fact that we were touched by the certainty of her healing months ago, and that she is actually living with us now is no

coincidence! We want to honor God's purposes for our time together. And we truly want to see her step out of that wheel chair, whole and walking solidly! Please stand with us.

- Pray for her faith
- Pray against the fear of falling
- Pray for total salvation
- Pray for an appetite for the Word and God's miraculous power
- Pray against a spirit of death
- Pray for her 16-year-old sister, Fabíola, who has been burdened with Fabrícia's care and is exhausted (she is also living with us)

Of course, pray for whatever else the Holy Spirit brings to your attention. When Fabrícia begins to walk again, many will be astonished and challenged to re-evaluate what they believe about Christ. **Miracles always force bystanders to review their convictions. In Fabrícia's case there just happen to be a lot of bystanders!**



Food For Thought

How can someone ever trust in the existence of an unconditional divine love when most, if not all, of what he or she has experienced is the opposite of love - fear, hatred, violence, and abuse?

They are not condemned to be victims! There remains within them, hidden as it may seem, the possibility to choose love. Many people who have suffered the most horrendous rejections and been subject to the most cruel torture are able to choose love. By choosing love they become witnesses not only to enormous human resiliency but also to the divine love that transcends all human loves. Those who choose, even on a small scale, to love in the midst of hatred and fear are the people who offer true hope to our world. (Henri Nouwen)

A little goes a long way. For instance, if every family who receives this letter were to give \$15 a month, we would be back on track with our ministry budget.

Missions for Life from page 1

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the generosity of those who have maintained their commitment to sow into our ministry despite the current economic crisis.

The book of Proverbs reserves many promises just for YOU...

“He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given (19:17)...

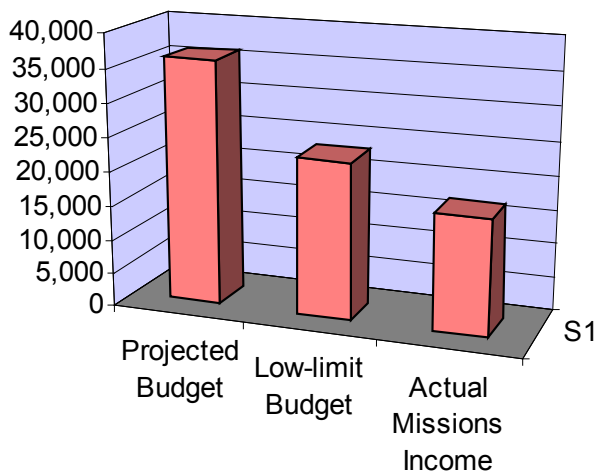
He who gives to the poor will not lack (28:27)...

He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor (22:9)...

He who has mercy on the poor, happy is he. (14:21)

We can reach a lot of Brazilians, but we need your help! Our supporters can donate online, or via Life Christian Center (tax deductible). See information below.

Gil Missions Budget



And Psalm 112 promises increase for the godly man because...

**He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor,
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted with honor.**

So, let's each keep giving!

Our own ministry continues to be in great need of financial help, so if you need a good cause toward which to give, look no further. Traditionally, we have had 20-25 regular supporters. This year, however, due to a number of hardships including financial difficulties, deaths of supporters, and changes in leadership of supporting churches, only about 11 supporters have been able to continue giving consistently.

You also may find it interesting to know that our projected annual budget is around \$36,000 (dependent on the exchange rate). At the very minimum we can operate on as little as \$23,000 annually. Unfortunately, our current support level is providing under \$17,000, or 47% of our projected budget. This has been creating severe problems for several months.

If you are not currently a financial supporter, would you be willing to step in now and help fill the gap?

Get involved. Help implant the Kingdom in the Amazon region through local churches, health and communication.

Financial Support

Tax deductible: checks made out to
Life Christian Center
and mailed to:

LCC

5497 SE International Way
Milwaukie, OR 97222 USA

Designate your donation to The Gils.

PayPal

<http://brazilministry.com/donate>