

# **WORLD** *Mission* **BAPTIST** *Agency* **FELLOWSHIP**

March 2023

Dear Prayer Partner,

February 17<sup>th</sup> through February 25<sup>th</sup> was the Carnival season in Brazil. Carnival is a wild sinful, celebration of food, alcohol, music sexual lust. It is observed yearly a few days before Lent, the 40-day period of fasting, abstinence and supposedly repentance that is observed by the Roman Catholic Church before Easter.

Brazil worships the devil and mock God during Carnival but Rios has the statue of the risen Christ. It is really horrifying how they portray Christ and the devil in the parades. Their floats of the bull and rainforest god are always scary. The word Carnival comes from the Latin word *carnis* (meat) and *levare* (to leave off). Immediately after Carnival comes Lent, 40-days of leaving off. The celebration ends on Shove Tuesday also known in our country as Mardi Gras of Fat Tuesday.

Many of our Baptist Churches during this time leave town on *Family Retreats*. These retreats are similar to our youth camps but differ in that they include the entire family. This year was no different and I am happy to report that a lot of individuals were saved and lives rededicated.

This year a group of workers from the church Dom Pedro I went to the interior of the state to the Pupunhal for their retreat among the Sataré believers. What a blessing to serve and to see God bless with a number being saved and others rededicating their lives to the Lord.



These are some of the scenes from the retreat. As the apostle Paul said, “**Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account**” (Philippians 4:17). And may “**...the things which were sent from you...**” be “**an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God**” (Philippians 4:18).

Unworthily His,  
*Wendell Hiers*