

In 2019, I started a mentoring program with 12 people in Itu to lead our congregation. This is part of a 3-year transition. Besides the 12 people being trained to lead the congregation in the preaching ministry, teaching, counseling, and other ministries, we are also planning to select elders. Please pray that the transitions will go smoothly, and that the people chosen to serve will be spiritual leaders.

As part of the transition Phyllis and I are making, we plan to offer spiritual renewal retreats for couples in ministry in Brazil. In November we held the first retreat in conjunction with the Sonscape Retreats in Colorado. During the week we taught and discussed about healthy rhythms in ministry, the importance of sabbath, and dealing with depression and anxiety in ministry. We also offered counseling to the participant couples. The retreat is one week-long and has only 4 couples that attend. This affords time to remove oneself from the ministry long enough to rest, relax, and make life changes.



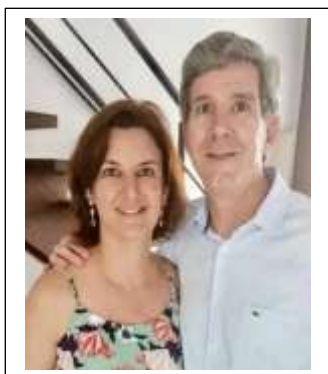
**Listen. Understand. Share.**



**Multiplica team – Antenor, Debora, Rebeca & Augusto**

**MULTIPLICA MEDIA MINISTRY:** Multiplica continues to expand. We have a daily radio program, which is followed by over 200,000 people. Our social media presence includes Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Podcasts. We offer videos, podcasts, and spots with Bible-based lessons. We have received reports of people using our media in Brazil, Europe, and Africa – wherever Portuguese is spoken – and lives being transformed!

The last week of January, 2019 we went to Israel with 20 other couples from Brazil. One of the highlights was worshipping with a group of Christians in Jerusalem



### **GOD'S TIMING FOR HARVEST**

Mané and Vivian Guardia were baptized on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Mané and Vivian had been our neighbors 20 years ago. In 2018 they started attending church because their son became a Christian, and in March I had the privilege of baptizing them. Mané is the head of dentistry for the Health Department in Itu and Vivian is a lawyer. Their son, Augusto, now serves in the Multiplica Media Ministry.

**Come Before Winter** is a spiritual renewal retreat for women in ministry. It started in 2003 and goes all over the world. In March 2019 CBW was held in Brazil. We had the honor of having Sonia Madiki, from India, in our home. Sonia traveled all the way from India to be part of the retreat! Sonia is a psychologist and counsels women in India and also teaches practical health and hygiene for women.



Dr. Greg Dunham and his wife Fawn also visited in March for meetings and planning for CURA 2019, our 11<sup>th</sup> annual medical campaign. CURA (Care, Respect and Love) also does outreach yearlong, helping people better their quality of life, tutoring children in the area, and various neighborhood projects.



In April, I visited the Mozambique embassy in Brasilia to talk to the ambassador about taking sandals to the children in Nensa. Last year while there the team was struck by how many children did not have adequate shoes— not even flip flops. So, the Itu church raised the funds to take 1,000 pairs of sandals in 2020.



May 29th, our grandson Liam turned ONE year old!!!



In June, Phyllis and I went to Araguaina, Tocantins – about 1200 miles north of Itu. We spoke to the churches during a weekend of campaigns and special meetings. On Friday night there was a “sweetheart banquet” - Valentine’s Day is in June in Brazil; on Saturday Phyllis spoke to the combined group of women from the 3 congregations there, and I spoke to the men. On Sunday I preached at the Lacerda congregation and that evening there was a special celebration at the downtown congregation.

July is always an exciting month! Our 11th CURA medical campaign was held in the Vila Progresso neighborhood. There were 170 volunteers – medical professionals, medical students, and lay volunteers. Hundreds were seen and given Care, Respect and Love!



“God of Creation” was the theme for the bilingual CAMPROOTS in 2019. There were over 130 people blessed, including Brazilian and American staff and participants.



The “Semeadores” (Sowers) weekend in September focused on “Learning from our failures” – several people told their stories of things that did not turn out the way they thought they would, and the lessons they learned from those experiences.

Connections conference the first week in October was a great blessing for the 60 men in attendance from all over South America.

Gary Green spoke to us and we had small groups, time to rest and share with one another.

Thanks to Great Cities Missions for making this retreat possible.



“Time for Intimacy” was the theme for the Couples’ Retreat of the Itu church at the end of October. Phyllis and I spoke about emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual intimacy in marriage.



We were given an incredible blessing in December. Our family spent 11 days together – just the 7 of us! We spent Christmas in a wonderful house at Holly Lake near Tyler, then traveled to Ohio to visit Mark’s family. It was a super special time to have with our kids and grandson. It is rare to have that much time just with family.



We are ready to see what God has in store for us in 2020!  
May 2020 bring each of you the blessings you desire.