



Brazilian Zeal



15 Sept. 2006 • São José dos Campos (SP) Brazil • Monthly report • J. Randal Matheny

AUGUST REPORT: Claudete is baptized in Taubaté



We were pleased and a bit surprised that on August 28, at the ladies' monthly meeting, Claudete from Taubaté told Vicki she wanted to be baptized. Vicki, Leila, and I have studied with her and her husband Odílio for some months now. Recently, she seemed resistant to baptism, since she had received an unscriptural baptism some years before.

In Taubaté, we have no facilities, so the decision was finally made to do the baptism in the city of Guaratinguetá, rather than SJCampos. So Sunday night, August 29, just before the meeting of the church, we heard her moving confession, and I baptized Claudete into Christ.

Claudete was baptized in a child's pool in Wilson and Fátima's front yard. The Guaratinguetá church meets in their home. Jorge (in foreground above) assisted me in the baptism. I offered for him to do the baptism, but he preferred that I baptize her.

Claudete is Paula Santana's sister. They are originally from Guaratinguetá. Paula and her husband Jorge were converted in São José dos Campos. Jorge's job later transferred them to São Paulo, but they continue to participate at SJCampos and Taubaté, and were responsible for beginning the work in Guaratinguetá. Paula and Claudete's father, sr. Benedito was one of the firstfruits there, as well as their brother Wilson, his wife Fátima, and their daughter Bianca.

Odílio is Jorge's uncle, so there is a double relation to Jorge and Paula in that family. We hope and pray that Odílio will also make a decision soon to enter into Christ.

Taubaté is located about 30 minutes from SJCampos, on the Via Dutra highway towards Rio de Janeiro. We take about 40 minutes from our house to Odílio and Claudete's home.

The work in Taubaté has been slow, since only one of the three families that began there live in the city. And that family, Clayton and Valéria, suffered job changes and her cancer, which has hindered them greatly. So we are grateful for Claudete's decision, which we trust will be only the first of many.

There is a possibility we may receive a lot in a residential area of Taubaté, just a few blocks from Odílio and Claudete's home. It was left over from a previous effort back in the 80s. Some documentation problems must be overcome, and the lot is in the name of a congregation in São Paulo. The elders there seem open to passing the lot on to us. We did not begin the work in Taubaté with this lot in mind, so we pray that if it will contribute to the work here, that the Lord will provide it for us. Some back taxes have to be paid, and we're not sure we have enough to cover it, much less to build any time soon, but we trust the Lord will guide his people in what is best.

We began meeting in Clayton and Valeria's home, and now meet in a hotel conference room. **BZ**

Kevin Cauley teaches in Paraíba Valley

For the second year, Kevin Cauley blessed us with spiritual lessons, this time on the topic of love. He blessed us further by bringing his wife Mary Lynn. They arrived Aug. 8 and rested that day. He taught lessons in homes in the Eugênio de Melo and Urbanova neighborhoods of SJC on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 9-10. On Saturday, 12, we canvassed a number streets and Kevin taught several lessons in Guaratinguetá. Sunday was the usual marathon as he taught and preached at SJC, Taubaté, and Guaratinguetá.

On Monday through Wednesday, 14-16, he taught a course at the SJC building, with good attendance and several non-Christian visitors. As last year, I translated his lessons. You can read on the Internet Kevin's report about his time in Brazil. See the Bzeal section of RandalMatheny.com

Other news

August 1st found me in the USA for the Preachers Files Lectureship (see July's report). I started out the year planning Forthright Press's next book with Barbara Oliver in Winona, Miss. Robert and Michal Swain were my gracious hosts while there. I arrived the 9th, a day after the Cauleys (my miscalculation), so I had to hit the ground running when I arrived.

Pray without ceasing

- ◆ For Valeria's chemotherapy, in Taubaté; and for her husband Clayton' faithfulness, as well as for their two children.
- ◆ For decisions to follow Christ: Davison, Joaquim, Odilio, Anibal & Ana Paula.

Family focus

- ◆ Vicki had been going to Taubaté on Tuesdays to study with Valéria for her encouragement. More recently, they proposed to alternate; Vicki going one week to Taubaté, Valéria coming the next to SJC. But with Valéria's cancer and treatment, that hasn't work out well.
- ◆ Leila, Vicki, and I went Aug. 19 for a concert by a musical group from Rio, mostly wind instruments. Since Leila plays and studies the flute, she was especially interested. Afterwards, the owners of the music school where she studies, who also happen to be our neighbors, invited us to their house for pizza. For more on this pleasant moment and a photo, see my blog: www.randalmatheny.com/blog/

Future possibilities

- ◆ Randal goes to the northeast city of Recife Oct. 13-14 to speak on "This We Believe" at the Prazeres congregations.

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The Brazilian Zeal newsletter reports on the work of the J. Randal Matheny family in the city of São José dos Campos (São Paulo state), located between São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Mailing Address: Caixa Postal 11 – São José dos Campos, SP – 12201-970 Brazil. Telephone: office: 011-55-12 3942-7753; home: 011-55-12 3949-1246. Email: jas@randalmatheny.com • Web: <http://randalmatheny.com> . Sponsor: Center Hill church of Christ, Paragould, Ark. 870-239-8032

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