

# Recife Report for May 2020

Randy and Kathy Short, Brazil

As our isolation at home continues, I work as much as I can using computer resources.

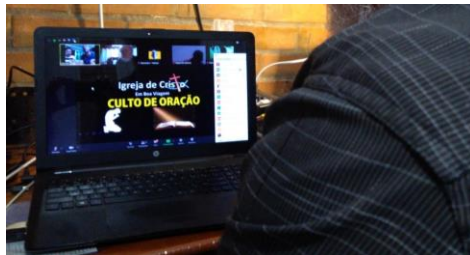
The first three Sundays in May I prepared, presented, and filmed **the sermon for the online church** services for the church in Boa Viagem. The service is taped ahead of time, and then prepared for streaming on YouTube, complete with singing, communion; prayers and sermon for the members all watch it together at our normal church time on YouTube, on either a smart phone or computer. If you are interested in visiting our church service let us know and we will send you the link.

I was invited to meet with the brethren in **Manaus, Amazonas** on a Sunday night. One evening I presented a lesson to a virtual couple's event for couples in **Garanhuns**. I also met online with Luizinho (EBNESR alumni) in Bahia and a group from there. On Monday mornings, I participate in a radio show live with Valdizan, an EBNESR graduate who is working with the church in the **south of Brazil, Pelatos**.

During the week, M-F, EBNESR directors and teachers present a **radio program** from 8:45 -9:00. It airs on Radio 100.7 FM Recife (Radio Evangelical). You might be able to tune in on the computer if you would like to hear the show. The shows are taped. Each director/teacher has a week of lessons on a rotating basis. The taped lessons are sent to me and I edit it all and send it to the radio station each Friday for the next week.

Our **EBNESR directors** have been able to continue to have our weekly meetings through Zoom. All **EBNESR classes** are being taught live through Zoom as well.

The advantage to the Zoom is personal contact. Our **Wednesday evening Bible study** is through Zoom so we are able to see the members, visit and pray together.



Despite the isolation measures we have taken I have had the privilege of leaving home in the past few week to baptize 4 people.

First there was Caio and Jessica. They were local online students. Caio was actually the student but Jessica, his girlfriend listened to the videos and they both decided they needed to be baptized. The online "Let the Bible Speak" course led to their decision. We met at the EBNESR building for a study and they were baptized. Caio continues to study in our follow-up course, the Biblical Church.



Then came Marcos. One of our EBNESR graduates, Marivaldo, lives in a city about an hour and ½ away. He is a faithful brother but has a tough time on two fronts. One he lives so far from the nearest church. The second is his family. He has a great family and faithful to him, but they all are part of a religion that is at odds with the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. He has even dreamed of starting a congregation in his city but his family has held him back. He purchased 10 copies of Muscle and a Shovel before the quarantine to pass out to family and friends. He gave his son a copy of Muscle and a Shovel to read during this slow time. After reading the book, his son decided to be baptized. We had an appropriately distanced study on a Saturday morning, and he made his life right with God. During the prayer immediately following Marco's baptism both he and his father openly sobbed with joy. Now of course the dream of having a church in his city has gained a new pulse. Pray for them.



Then there is Ana. This is an amazing story of how far the gospel will travel. We have “Let the Bible Speak” Bible study groups all over Brazil right now. Maybe it is better to say we have students from all over Brazil and other countries in those groups and brethren from all over Brazil tutoring them through groups on the WhatsApp platform. Rather amazing the number of people who are studying with us. There are thousands. Since we hold little control over the groups, we discover new ones we did not even know about all the time, we do not have an accurate account of the numbers. The recorded classes with videos by Nilton Barretto and materials originally organized by the team in Salvador Brazil are made readily available.



Back to Ana's story. She started studying online and decided she wanted to be baptized even before she got to the lesson on baptism. She was in a course with a teacher, John, who lives in the south of Brazil (Santa Catarina, RS). He passed her contact to me, as she lives in the city of Cabo, nearby and I set up the study with her at the EBNESR building. Her husband participated. I also called a couple from a congregation near where they live to participate (everybody using distancing appropriately). After the study Ana was baptized for remission of her sins.

This morning I received a message from a woman in São Paulo and I found out how she (who is not our sister) found out about the “Let the Bible Speak” study group. Ana Batista from Boa Viagem was

her contact. She is a teacher and Ana Batista was her student. Abnoam Veloso, and her husband, Humberto Veloso are students in the course from Sao Paulo. We are finding interest in Bible study from far away. I think it is interesting to share how the Word of God travels.

At the end of the online course, **28 certificates** for “Let the Bible Speak” distance learning were earned in **Natal, RN and 40 certificates in Boa Viagem, Recife.**



*“Let the Bible Speak” Lessons (Module 2, Lesson 2)*



*Certificate for the online course*

We thank you so much for your interest in the work in Recife and your prayers, especially during this time of quarantine. We appreciate the personal contacts that have been made to check in on us! Our prayers continue for all of you. Keep in touch!

Blessings!  
Randy & Kathy