

Paula's Post

October 2016



Psa 81:10

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

This verse has spoken to me a lot these recent days as I have thought about how the Lord delivers us from bondage to a life so full and abundant...all we have to do is be willing to receive it. He has certainly filled my mouth with His wonderful gospel message these past 2 months and I have once again felt that I am doing what I came here to do; speak of the God who still delivers out of bondage and slavery, not to a nation but to sin and a life that has no real meaning without Him.

ARCA

When I came back here in April we as missionaries along with the help of the women of ARCA started a review process to ascertain the need for a project such as this and to think about possibilities of working in a different way to reach vulnerable and abused teenagers. That process finished in June when I wrote a report explaining the findings of our research. In mid September we then had a meeting with all our British sending churches, UFM and us missionaries here via skype to discuss the way forward. It would take too long to explain details but this is what has been decided and all are in agreement. My and Jo's churches along with both of us separately and over a period of time felt that we could not be involved in a future ARCA as it did not seem viable to re-open for a number of reasons. However Mo along with a good number of the Brazilian workers see that there is a need for a home to help abused teenage girls and so along with the support of her church in the UK will work to re-open. They are seeking to open at the boys' home in Sta Isabel; pray for them that they will know what the Lord's will is all along, it is not an easy task as there is a lot to do. Jo and I remain as members as should the girls' home re-open we would like to contribute as we still have the desire to help for the benefit of abused girls.

Miceb Conference

In June we had the annual MICEB conference where we get together as missionaries. This was a real blessing - time to catch up with other missionaries, good biblical teaching but also chance to chat through what was on our hearts about the future and the ARCA process with William from UFM. At this time I shared my desire to work with Pro-Vida (Pro-Life) amongst other ministry burdens. Pro-Vida is another missionary project here that works with teenagers and for a while I had been interested in their 'New Directions' ministry which involves going into teenage prisons to preach the gospel. I talked to the project leader who said they would be interested in me working with them.

Canada

Mid July I took the opportunity to visit a good friend of mine, Kathleen, who also works with children for a mission project in this part of Brazil and is on home assignment until early 2017. This was a blessed time with her and a wonderful provision and chance to rest. We travelled quite a bit and she even had the privilege of shaking the hand of the Canadian Prime Minister. I found this quite amusing as he passed right in front of me and I had no idea who he was. I saw this time away as the end one chapter of my ministry and the start of another and when I came back to Belem I started working with the New Directions team in Pro-Vida.

New Ministries

At the moment I am working with Pro-Vida on a part time basis mainly sharing the gospel in the correction units with teenage boys and girls. I am loving being involved in this but want to get to know all the different works they do such as working in children's homes and also they have their own boys' home, and maybe get involved in some other activities now and again. Praise the Lord for the excitement this gives me and please pray for these teens that they will see their sin and their need of a Saviour. We have opportunities to talk to them when they open up to which is a real blessing and most of the time they are ready and willing to listen.

Another desire of mine has been to work with children and their families connected with the church in the surrounding neighbourhood. These children come to various clubs that the church offers and some though not all come from difficult backgrounds. I help at the 'Space to Fly' project on a Monday night which involves a devotional and then a school lesson. Through this I have been able to visit some families and we've had chance to share the gospel in a number of homes. Please pray that we as teams will take a real interest in their lives, showing we care so we can apply the gospel practically and not just preach at them. Pray too for Jo and I as we think about how we can use our experience in teaching and children's work in the past to influence the



more efficient running/witness of these clubs, speak to the church about everyone being more involved through praying for these children and their families and at some point about maybe develop a ministry with the families such as doing home bible studies.

The desire to work on the streets with teenagers has never left me and I long to go back and make renewed contact with Daniel Silva who I last saw back in May. Please pray for me as I think and pray through this and that the Lord would provide me with a male helper. I have some ideas but need to speak to certain people.

Please continue to remember Gabriel and Pierre and their family. A couple of weeks ago I accompanied their mother to collect Pierre from a place he had been taken after robbing a boy of his mobile phone. His reason for doing this was that he was hungry. Also upon writing I have just learnt that Gabriel has been stabbed in the chest though it seems not to be serious.

Other News

Suane and Val have moved to live with Zila, one of the ladies that worked at the girls' home. She offered to take them in and us as missionaries helped towards the cost of building an extra bedroom at Zila's house. They are quite happy there and we get to visit them now and again. This photo is of Suane's birthday. You may also remember Geane too, who also went to live with Zila and now has a baby son.



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Back in August whilst at a meeting at the girls' home we received an unexpected visitor, Ezekiel who arrived at the boys' home with Felipe in 2012 from another city. They were like brothers. Ezekiel moved out at age 18 to live with Silvio then ran away to the street. He got involved in a life of drugs and crime. The Lord kept after him and brought him back and now he is going on well with God and we have put him back in touch with Felipe. This was an emotional time for the both of them. Please keep praying for Ezekiel because he still battles against temptation to use drugs but he wants to be a good influence to Felipe who is going on well too with the Lord right now and living on his own - he moved out of Pro-Vida's home in September.

As always thank you for your support. My ministry has changed a lot but my desire is to serve the Lord wherever He has called me and I value your prayers and financial immensely. May He richly bless you with His presence, joy and peace to which there is no comparison.



Every Blessing in our dear Lord Paula xxx

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