

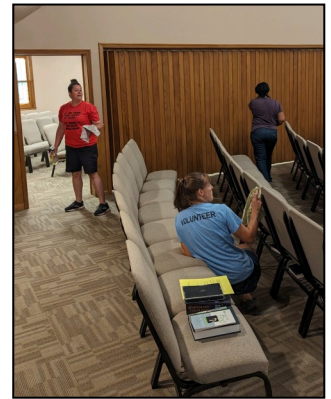
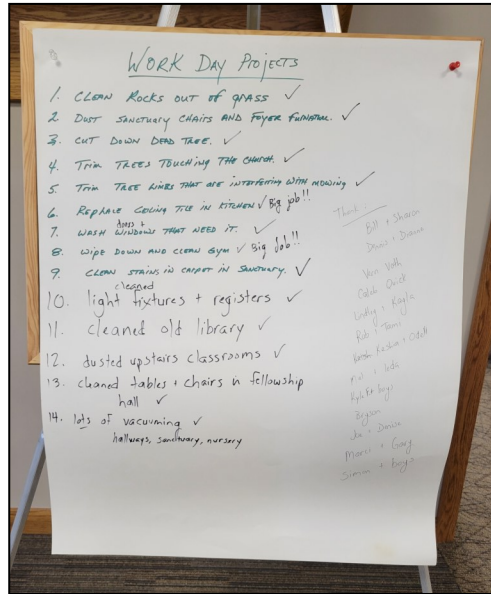
June 2024

# Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

## Church Work Day

On June 8<sup>th</sup> the Deacons put together a Work Day to spruce up the church building and grounds. The list they started with was all accomplished and also some additional items that were added to the list. Thank you to the Deacons for organizing the day and also to those who came out to help keep our church building and grounds clean and updated.



# Vonnie's Views

We just finished a 7-day, 6-state, 1,900-mile road trip with our two youngest grandsons (age 13 and 8). We have many great memories from our trip (ask me and I'll share with you). But today I want to share with you my favorite memory of the trip.

Currently, my Bible reading has me reading the book of Genesis. My youngest grandson loves to get up early with me to read the Bible together. So, we rose early, found a quiet spot, and read together then discussed what we read.

On the final morning of our trip, we read Genesis 18-19 together. I had forgotten that the subject matter of these two chapters may not have been quite appropriate for an 8-year-old. But we were well into the reading before I realized it, so I decided to just keep reading and see what he said. During the reading, it didn't seem like he was listening very closely. After we read, we didn't discuss, but moved on to other things.

About 15 minutes later, my grandson approached me and said, "So Lot's two daughters married their dad?" Not really wanting to get into the discussion further, I said, "Yes" and left it at that. But I could see that the wheels were turning. He said, "And their two babies became nations?" I said, "Yes, they did." More wheel-turning was followed by, "Those were not good nations, were they?" I responded, "You're right, those were not nations that followed God." Then I realized the opportunity to explain God's magnanimous grace and said, "One of those nations was named Moab, do you know there's a great story about Moab?" He didn't, so I filled him in!

The Moabites did not worship or serve the One True Living God. They worshipped idols—primarily Chemosh (Numbers 21:29), but they were polytheistic (Judges 10:6). Through most of their history, the Moabites were hostile toward Israel. Because their land was near Israel, the Israelites often did business with them and spent time with them—thus they were a temptation for Israel to commit idolatry. Israelites were prohibited from marrying Moabites. Moabites were prohibited from coming into the temple to worship (Deuteronomy 23:3-6).

But God has a heart for ALL PEOPLE, not just his chosen people. This is illustrated by a lovely little story in the Old Testament. Ruth's story takes place during one of the darkest times in Israel's history—the time of the judges. A man named Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons moved to Moab from Bethlehem during a time of severe drought. While living in Moab, Naomi's husband died. Her sons married Moabite women (Orpah and Ruth). About 10 years later, her two sons died. Naomi was left destitute.

Naomi heard that the famine was over in Judah, and she decided to go home. As she set out, her two daughters-in-law followed her. Naomi told them to go back to their families. Orpah obeyed, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi. Ruth pledged herself to loyalty to Naomi and to Naomi's God (Ruth 1:16-17).

In the providence of God, as the two women arrived in Bethlehem, it was harvesting time. Ruth went out to gather grain in a "random" field, which happened to be a relative of Naomi's. Boaz was impressed with Ruth's work ethic and told her to stay with his harvesters—he would protect her and provide for her.



Ruth & Boaz ended up getting married. Ruth had a son named Obed who had a son named Jesse, who had a son named David—the great King of Israel and a man after God's own heart. Jesus the Messiah was born through the family lineage of Ruth & Boaz. Ruth is one of 4 women named in Matthew's genealogy.

That is REDEMPTION at its finest!! What a kind and loving God we serve. He is truly not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance! (2 Peter 3:9). What a blessing to share these beautiful truths with my grandson!



## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

**Memory Verse: Proverbs 18:10—The Name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe.**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Pray for Pastor Dizzy and family - safety & joy in the move.	<b>2</b> Pray for Elwyn & Linda to have times of refreshing & pure joy.	<b>3</b> Pray parents have wisdom in teaching their kids God's truth.	<b>4</b> Pray other churches would be led to unite in prayer regularly.	<b>5</b> Pray for Ivan & Mary to have wisdom in giving counsel.	<b>6</b> Pray for Hope Shelter & Union Rescue Mission to lead souls to the light of Christ.
<b>7</b> Pray our hearts are clean & pure, that nothing would stand between us and God.	<b>8</b> Pray only God's truth would be proclaimed among us.	<b>9</b> Pray those who can't take care of themselves have the help they need.	<b>10</b> Pray James & Angela have wisdom in setting goals & priorities.	<b>11</b> Pray lost people would be drawn to Christians who can tell them of Jesus.	<b>12</b> Pray the truths taught Wed. night would come to the mind of the kids.	<b>13</b> Pray for open doors for Joe & Denise to share the gospel.
<b>14</b> Pray for Harvest Radio & All Nations Radio - clear, strong broadcasts.	<b>15</b> Pray for hearts open and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.	<b>16</b> Pray Josh & Camila have wisdom in helping young believers to grow.	<b>17</b> Pray for Christians in politics to have wisdom, courage & God's leading.	<b>18</b> Pray for those in their 20's making life-impacting decisions to seek God first.	<b>19</b> Pray Peter & Rachel have God's peace in every situation.	<b>20</b> Pray for wisdom in knowing how to help others & point them to Christ.
<b>21</b> Pray Chuck & Connie are able to comfort those suffering around them.	<b>22</b> Pray we would be more concerned about God's glory than ourselves.	<b>23</b> Pray we each finish well - never knowing when we will finish.	<b>24</b> Pray God uses Tim Zook's skills to spread the gospel.	<b>25</b> Pray those in bondage to an addiction would find forgiveness & deliverance in Jesus.	<b>26</b> Pray for wisdom to know how to apply truths learned.	<b>27</b> Pray God's blessings on the Brazilian churches & their heart to reach others.
<b>28</b> Pray for open doors to share the gospel - for us & for the missionaries.	<b>29</b> Pray for an opportunity to encourage someone in the Lord.	<b>30</b> Pray your life exalts the name of God.	<b>31</b> Pray for God's light to shine through the darkness & souls to be saved.			

# Avant

# In Brazil



**This pile of Bibles doesn't look so good.** But as they say, a worn bible is a sign it is often read. This pile represents many Bibles we have at *Café e Graça* which were donated for exactly that. These also represent many hours of reading the Bible together at the coffee shop, many hours of discipleship, and more than a few saved souls. So in reality, these Bibles are looking quite beautiful. Don't you agree?

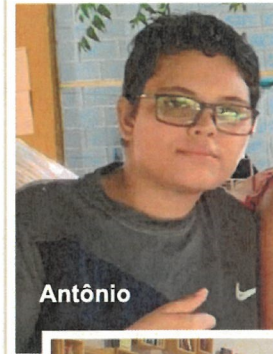
**Let us introduce you** to a couple of guys who represent several who have chosen to follow Christ, in part as a result of the reading of the Bible at *Café e Graça*.

Antônio (15) has taken it upon himself to gather together other students at school to read the Bible.

Marcelo (17) is teaching this booklet, "Who is Jesus Christ?" at the coffee shop. He teaches four younger guys, two of whom have accepted Christ with him.

Lucas (15) gave the message at our Wednesday night church service this week. It was short, but he made some very impactful points. This was his first time. Others, such as Antônio and Marcelo, have also given messages recently.

Please pray for these boys and other young followers of Christ.



Antônio



Marcelo



Lucas

**The bi-annual prayer retreat**, held by the church association, happened again this month. Over 100 from various churches attended. It is always an encouraging time as we pray together, hear from the Word from several speakers and have evangelistic outreach. If you look very closely, you can see our son, Joshua, speaking on prayer.



Also, at the end of the retreats, those who feel called by God to serve in outreach in some way, now or in the future, are called forward for prayer. It is always great to see many young people responding. Some of the youth from Mucambo went forward.



### **The Word of God is powerful.**

Many of you may not know that our son, Lucas, and his family moved down to Brazil a couple years ago and live in a neighboring town. He continues to work for Moody but remotely. He started doing some ranching "on the side". Some time after hiring workers for this, they began to regularly read Scripture with the families of the workers, on their request. No conversions yet,

but they wait and pray.

After doing this for some time, other doors opened. A relative about a kilometer away, Gerardo, asked (after a life threatening accident) that someone read Scripture with him and his family also. So Ivan and I have been doing that on Friday nights for a while now. We often take young people from Mucambo along. We simply read Scripture and make comments or answer questions.

### **What's next?**

As we have mentioned in the past, we have been looking at properties where a church could be built. The doors for that have not yet opened. But we feel it is time to physically separate the coffee shop outreach from our young, small church. Partly, this is to make "church" look more like "church" in the eyes of the public. And by the way, the church now has a name: *Igreja do Cordeiro* (Church of the Lamb).

A door has opened for the coffee shop to move to a new rented location just three blocks away. We hope to move in June. The present location will be used more as a church with occasional activity nights where kids/adults can come play games like always.

Please pray for this major change. We feel this is possible because we have two young guys who have proven themselves capable of running the coffee shop whether we are present or not. And they see it as both a job and a ministry.



### **And last but certainly not least...**

Our daughter and son-in-law, Stefanie and Kyle, gave us our 12th grandchild on March 3! She is their third princess! So now we have six granddaughters and six grandsons. The beautiful girl's beautiful name is Hannah Providence. We loved being there for her birth!

### **Thank you for your prayers!**

And keep praying for Mary's hearing health issues. There is progress, but the right ear still has an echo. However, the surgeon says it is all coming along as he expected.

If you would like to give to this ministry, please go to [avantministries.org/give](http://avantministries.org/give).

Or send a check (earmarked Ivan Goossen) to

**Avant Ministries**  
10000 N Oak Trafficway  
Kansas City, MO 61455

# GUARACIABA NEWS

## James and Rosangela's up date

### Almost ready

Our cabins are almost ready for use! July is already scheduled full and we are looking forward to providing a vacation of rest and spiritual renewal to our Christian workers, many of whom are pictured below.

### Local church

This second semester we are hoping to get started on the foundation of the Guaraciaba church building. We have almost enough money to bring up the foundation to ground level with all volunteer labor.

### Fun trip

The first two weeks of May we took off to visit Rosangelas family in the state of Pará, which is in the Amazon basin. Traveled by car, bus, train and boat! It was lots of fun to get to know her family a little better and tromp around those parts.



## Improve your preaching

That was the theme of the one day seminar we hosted here at Point of View to help these men improve their preaching. There were almost 80 men representing about 15 churches. These are men that are active in their churches and desire to improve their preaching.

This small army of men is very energizing to work with as they are desirous to serve the Lord! Pray for them that they would be faithful in interpretation of the Word as well as fearless preachers in the power of the Holy Spirit.





June 5, 2024

**Dear Garden Community Church,**

It has been quite a while since we have sent out a prayer update. We've been busy, every day has been different.

We have been able to visit 3 of our supporting churches plus friends and supporters along the way, to and from those places. Those visits have been very encouraging to us as we have shared what God has done through our ministry over the years. Just thinking how faithful these churches and friends have been to God and us over our career is beyond comprehension!

Since January, we have also been working on trying to understand Social Security, Medicare, supplements, all the parts A,B,D.... That too has been beyond comprehension but in a frustrating way. Joe researched so much trying to find the best plan for us and we sought advice from others farther down the road, age-wise. The years we lived overseas we thought those government offices were slow and difficult to navigate, but we found that SO true here in the US as well!

But finally, with much prayer and discussion, decisions were made and as of April 1, we are officially "retired" and received our first Social Security check. That hasn't changed anything else about our daily activities. We still have supporters and friends to visit over the next months and we are anticipating a couple ministry trips in the Fall. Thankfully, Avant Ministries keeps our account open so that we can use the money that still comes in for us for these ministry trips.

The last week of June, the Lord willing, we are going to be attending an Avant Conference in Cyprus. It's called "Refresh" and gathers all our missionaries from our region together for a week of encouragement and rest. We missed the one that happened 2 years ago but are so thankful that even though we are officially "retired," we are still able to attend this conference one more time. Please pray for safety, health and rest for all of us that will be attending.

Joe continues to have conversations with Taniel, the printer in the Republic of Georgia. Taniel was thrilled to receive a grant for equipment for his small print shop and Joe was able to help him find good used machines in Europe through the internet. Currently a German mission is helping him package and file export documents for the equipment and it should arrive in Georgia mid-June. Please pray that once again, this important equipment will travel safely and pass through customs without difficulty.

This is our e-mail prayer update which we will continue sending out every few months or so. We highly value your prayers and interest in the work the Lord called us to do. Where would we be if it wasn't for the Faithfulness of God and the prayers of His people?

In His Grip,

**Joe & Denise**