

LOOK WHAT GOD IS DOING

September 2021

TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

Intensely Focused

Jesus had a clear mission. He never vacillated. He always kept His mission squarely in focus. He knew that He was all about seeking and saving those who are lost, those who will not be saved on the Judgment Day if they do not repent and turn to God and



obey His Word. It wasn't an easy mission. People do not like their deeds to be condemned. They do not like to be exposed. On the other hand, there was a very enjoyable part of His mission; the saving grace of forgiving those who repent. His love and grace were just as stunning as His rebuke was of the fake followers. We too must be keenly aware of our mission. We also must condemn sin openly and boldly just as we are equally to show His marvelous grace to a world in desperate darkness. We must have razor sharp Bible balance as we analyze those around us and act according to their real needs. We must analyze first of all our own lives, words, deeds and motives.

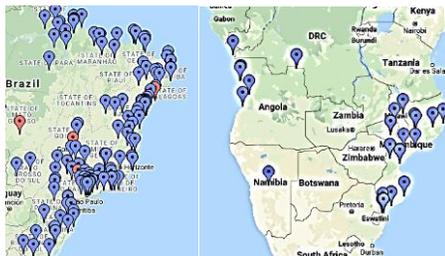
“EBM”

World Bible School CONNECT ads have been in an experimental phase in Brazil since the beginning of July. The Bonocô church in Salvador, Brazil has been having a great number of students signing up. I get an email showing new students signing up and lessons being completed. So many new students signed up to study God's Word with



**ESCOLA
BÍBLICA
MUNDIAL**

Você Compartilhando Jesus



WBS in the last 30 days and most of them live in greater Salvador. There

were Portuguese Speaking Web Students – 442, LiteApp Portuguese Students – 194 and Postal Portuguese Students – 36 = **a total of 672 Portuguese speaking students have signed up to study the Word of God with WBS in the last 30 days.** This has happened even though the WBS CONNECT targeted ads have only started in Brazil and not in any other Portuguese speaking country. We are super excited about

these great steps of progress. Thank God with us for all of these souls who demonstrate some level of interest in God and His Word and His will for their lives. Please pray fervently for them, that their desire will grow more and more and that they will complete the introductory lesson and all of the 50 lessons and come to the knowledge of the truth and surrender to the Lord.

“IBO”

As you already know, we started the Online Bible Institute (or Instituto Bíblico Online or IBO) because of the Covid restrictions. We determined that there is sufficient Internet in many Portuguese speaking countries in Africa to do this. Most Mozambicans are not able to pay for enough Internet credit to have school online and so we are developing several groups (located where churches meet) where students can go to have access to these studies. It's not as good as being in the classroom with the teacher but it's actually a close second option. As we continue to



grow these groups, more and more students are signing up. Most of the material comes right off of SIBI's Solar Player in Portuguese. I took 80 SIBI Solar Players and 200 MicroSD cards that fit right into their phones containing much of the materials for their classes. Since Nilton Barretto



did most of the preparation of the Portuguese Solar Player, he fit the role of coordinator of the courses. His part is to develop the material (text, audio and even some video materials) and Luiz is the one who teaches the one course each month live online. What a great team of Brazilians teaching the Word to young Mozambican students. Please pray that these studies be a great development of unity among the churches of Christ in Mozambique and become a source of effective, fruitful evangelism. Evangelism is great in Mozambique, but if we can't have quality follow-up with new converts, so many will be lost. Solar players and MicroSD cards were distributed in all of the locations mentioned in this newsletter.



International Travel

After a famine of international travel, God allowed me to go to Brazil and Mozambique. I left for Brazil on August 5th and on from there to Mozambique on August 14 and returned to Lubbock on September 7th. Of course, the travels were hindered some by Covid restrictions everywhere, but it was amazing to see what God can do even with the restrictions. There were three different Covid tests required. We had multiple smaller meetings but still much good was done.

Brazil

It was great to be back in Brazil after an absence of 18 months. There were a lot of joyful times in Salvador, Brazil, renewing many close friendships and making many new ones. It is so exciting to see the continued growth of the Bonocô congregation there. It seems that the covid restrictions has brought about considerable growth for them. I was privileged to preach both early and late service there and show them the super exciting growth of World Bible School in Brazil. Daniel Amaro, our young WBS Service Center Coordinator now works out of the new WBS Office in the School of the Bible building where the Bonocô congregation meets. Daniel and I did WBS presentations together in Feira de Santana, Itinga and Aracajú. What a great “reboot” WBS is having in Brazil. This is the early and late service in Salvador:



Above is the church in Aracajú. On the right is the church in Feira de Santana having a meal together.



On the left is the church in Itinga (I attempted to put two pictures together). God has blessed these churches so much. All of them are fully self-supporting and have their own evangelists. All of these congregations share the preaching and Bible teaching among several brothers. They are

very evangelistic congregations and are planting many other congregations. Isn't this super exciting? I love to be a part of such a growing work!!

Mozambique

Tete City has been the main base of operations in Mozambique for me. There are six congregations of the churches of Christ in Tete City (many more in Tete Province) totaling well over 300 members. Thank God we were able to meet with representatives from four of them to discuss the role of those who are named as leaders in the federal church registrations. This was a challenging but fruitful meeting to help the brotherhood see that though these men are seen by the government as responsible to respond to legal

matters before the federal government, they have no authority to rule over the Body of Christ as a military leader or as some kind of governing authority (Matthew 20:20-27, 18:1-4, 23:1-12, 1 Peter 5:1-6).

It was great to be able to visit with several of the church leaders in **Zobue** (on the border of Malawi, pictured on the right). The church there is big and strong. When their building was seriously damaged by flooding, you helped them to build a new, larger one which now houses two congregations. Thank you so much for your sacrifice and generosity.



From Zobue we went to the area of Namidzi, **Chandame** where we were supposed to have a graduation. The “Mozambique Bible Institute” (Instituto Bíblico de Moçambique or IBM) started classes in Tete City on May 22, 2017 with 21 students. Some months later, that school was taken from us. In January 2018 we asked the teachers (Cambeua and Benjamim) to teach the students in Chandame and

Inhangoma. On November 21, 2017 Cambewa reported, “IBM classes were held in Namidzi, Chandame on the 16th to 21st of October, 2017 with 29 students. The course was “The Life of an Evangelist”. This means that the school, which was supposed to last 3 years, took 4 years and 2 months to complete.



Since it was against the Covid restriction laws of Mozambique for schools or churches to meet at that time, we decided to do what was lawful and divided the graduates into two groups, invited them to come to a graduation lunch and present them their certificates. On August 21st, eleven students received their certificates and on the 22nd another eleven graduated. It was a very joyful time. We took many pictures with teachers and students.

We also made a short visit to the young church in **Tsangano**. They have survived up till now but have not grown much. They now have a good building and great location. After some encouragement, the evangelist there has been able to really do some good and fruitful evangelism. He needs a house to live in with his wife and 5 children. The rent is high and he struggles to pay it. It would cost around US\$500 to build the adobe walls, \$350 for the timber for the roof, \$410 for tin roof and \$300 for doors and windows. On the right you see the end of the church building and far right is Cambeua and Fanuele showing where the house would be located.



On August 26 we did another graduation lunch in Mutarara for the 15 graduates of **Inhangoma**. It was again a great celebration.

The School of the Bible building (The actual name has not yet been determined) in **Mutarara** has cost far more than planned. Even now it is still being finished at least to the point that it can be usable. The electrical installation is now being completed. Classes will continue into the night, and it is one of IBO’s requirements that each study group have electricity for the computer, modem, sound system, a future projector, and lighting. This school has a double purpose. It will be where WBS evangelism efforts are centered in this area and where WBS seminars



will be taught as well as IBO Bible equipping (Ephesians 4:11-16). This plan seems to be in line with what the Apostle Paul did in Ephesus in the School of Tyrannus in Acts 19:7-10. The result was “that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.” This is also the plan we used in Salvador, Brazil and God certainly blessed it.

On August 27, we made a quick visit to a very new church in the village of **Morrumbala**, Zambezia. Over 30 have been taught and baptized in this village in the past few months by Alberto and Benjamim. They are having questions about the use of the “batuque” (African drum) and dancing in the church assembly. We have already begun to address these issues as we search for what pleased God.





On August 29, I rode a bus to **Beira**. The church there is doing well and growing. Beira is an important city in Mozambique. The IBO Bible equipping is going well and growing also. I took three laptops and three Sunset donated projectors for IBO classes. This also gives us the ability to teach and preach there as well as them to preach in Brazil. What a great exchange it has already been. In fact, a sister in João Pessoa, Brazil teaches Ladies Bible Class there and

other places. The communion between Brazilian and Mozambican churches has grown greatly by live internet preaching and teaching in the recent months.

I arrived in **Maputo**, the capital city of Mozambique, and was warmly greeted by several brothers, none of which had I ever met in person. They were WBS students and others were the brothers in Christ who helped to follow-up with them with further study and baptized them into Christ. What a joy it was to meet them in person. It was great to be able to teach and preach to a small group of the area leaders there. I again, as in each of these places, did a presentation of how God is doing great things thru WBS and many thousands are coming to the Lord. I also spoke about the opportunities of IBO Bible equipping.



They were all very welcoming and kind, but some were skeptical because they have been taught that Bible teaching in a “school” was prohibited by God and supporting of orphanages and many other such prohibitions. We certainly do not want these brothers to be robbed of the opportunity to have such an opinion, but we also do not want the Body of Christ to be divided over such things. Since this issue (and many like these) has been an problem from the beginning of our Mozambique work, we have asked John Reese to help us with clear Bible teaching to deal with it. We thank God that we have these lessons and can share them with any who have such a need.

THANK YOU

We praise God for all of your concern, prayers, loving support and we pray for His richest blessings on you.

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