

We are planning our first trip back to Brazil, but even though we are not in Brazil, there are people with boots on the ground and many things are happening. We have many things planned and are expecting great things from God in 2013.

I would like to tell you some of the testimonies that occurred in 2012. Testimonies that confirm; we are going into 2013 headed in the right direction.

With Dona Edna one of the volunteers with the Novidade church, we went to Sao Bento and saw the work she is doing with that neighborhood. As of now we do not have a permanent meeting place; so we meet in the open air and when it rains one of the ladies arranges for us to meet on her porch.



(Jodi, Teena & Edna)

This day we meet with the mothers and they started to give their testimonies of how God has changed their lives through this work. One of the ladies spoke of how her family has been mired in voodoo for so many years and how they had fought against her conversion to Christianity. She says that although they have not completely embraced her beliefs they are changing. They have realized that all the idols they have worshipped are false and are removing them from their homes. Their family fights are over, they listen to her worship music and calm has settled over their home. They have become encouragers instead of people who tell her that she is a failure. She says that she knows that even on the surface there is still unemployment, poverty, oppression, but God is in control and now good can flow in her children and home.

Another woman told us of how for 2 years she has been trying to get her pension. This is one of the things that this group brings to these neighborhoods. They teach them how to take care of themselves. They give classes and seminars in practical things, like how to fill out job applications, how to present themselves at interviews, how to clean and maintain their homes and legal issues. This day they taught on having a "winner's attitude."



**(Atitude de vencedor)** This woman has been fighting with a huge bureaucracy and had no idea what or who could help her resolve her issue. They took her paperwork and had within 2 months she received a letter saying that she would be receiving her pension. This was a Saturday and on Tuesday when we went to the lady's house to visit, she had already received her card and first check. What has taken 2 years in the natural God resolved in a matter of days.



(Card in Hand)

**Jer. 29:11 (NIV)**

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."



We are starting building the house for Dona Julia & her family with our new partners Kesia and her husband Cris who are the children's pastors at Igreja dos Remidos.



**(Jodi, Kesia & me at Remidos)**

This is something, building, that was always a ministry of my father, and I guess I got bitten by the same bug. I love construction, not only for what it does in the practical, but what it does for the soul. A place that provides shelter and a lasting testimony of how God loves us and wants the best for His people.



**(Kesia, Kids and me at old house)**

Then we have the Ribeiro family. A family we have known for 15 years. Dona Edna, the mother served Maanaim faithfully as our cleaning lady. Always came to work with a smile and ready to do her best everyday.

Her children all attended our school and excelled in ever program we ever developed. For the last 3 years we have been sponsoring her daughter Joselaine at college. She is studying computer science and is set to graduate this year. Last year she started an internship at a computer support company. She was doing so well that they sponsored her to take an English course, a very important thing to know when you are dealing with most publications written only in English. Her internship was due to end at the end of 2012. They called her in for what she thought would be an exit interview and to her surprise offered her a full time job, not starting when she graduated but beginning immediately. A miracle for her and her family, this company has had many interns, but she is the first and only one, they have ever given a permanent job.

What a testament to this beautiful young woman's faithfulness and spirit. She gets up every morning at 5AM to go to work, then directly to school and only returning home every night at midnight. Now her younger sister, Mariana is starting college in February and will be studying marketing. I find it a privilege to be a part of their story and this testimony.



**(Mariana & Joselaine)**

These past things are just a small part of what we have accomplished and testimony to what God is doing and continuing to do in Brazil. What a testimony to all of you, our faithful partners to this people and this ministry.