



# BAPTIST COURIERS FOR CHRIST

**EST 1979**

**September 2025**

## Opportunity Awaits

by Don Stertz



*Left: Praying over the container that was loaded on August 4, with over 300,000 Portuguese John and Romans and about 3,000 Portuguese bibles headed to southern Brazil for the fall campaign. We are asking prayer for its safe arrival ahead of our team and ease of clearing customs.*

*Photos below: Josh preaching in the new church that Antonio has started. The church architecture, concrete buildings, and cobblestone streets are very European*

In early June of this year Josh and I traveled to the southern-most state in the country of Brazil. Missionary Nathan Ring has been after us for years to come and hold a scripture campaign with him in the city of Porto Alegre. Well, as you will see, the Lord had different plans for Brother Ring and us as to where to hold the campaign.

Thirteen months prior to our arrival in Brazil, a second horrific, devastating flood within one year's time literally wiped out the center of several towns. These towns and a large city of over 100,000 people are a good two-hour drive from Brother Ring's church in Porto Alegre. At that time Brother Ring and a few of his church members traveled to these cities taking humanitarian aid and assisting wherever they could with cleanup. Along with this aid, they passed out gospel tracts, which were warmly received. While there Nathan found out that national pastor Antonio was doing what he and his church could do to help these devastated areas as well.

They both felt the need to establish a couple of Bible-believing Baptist churches in these towns where none previously existed. Since the disaster Brazilian pastor Antonio has started a church plant in one of these cities.

*Continued on inside page...*



# STAFF NEWS

## Don and Laura Stertz Highlights

by Laura Stertz



Top left: Lady saved on Friend Day  
Top right: Laura with a teacher holding book of Romans  
Above: Don handing books of Romans to school children

The year 2025 has been filled with outreaches to areas where we had never been before. The two countries were Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic, where we went with a team of folks from the United States to make a difference. Overall we felt the people warm and open to receive the scriptures but needy spiritually.

A high point of the Dominican outreach was the opportunity to go to multiple public schools to pass out the book of Romans. Not only were the school children (up through high school) eager to receive them, but also the educators were delighted. We'd never been given a chance to do this before. We were able to give the wonderful words of life to the next generation! We were rejoicing too, as many souls were saved on Friend Day in the two churches our team worked with.

In our travels this year so far, February took us to Tennessee and Alabama, April to Ohio (capped off with the NFL Draft Outreach in Green

Bay, Wisconsin), and June to upstate New York reporting back to supporters and meeting a few new pastors in churches. The month of July found us in Illinois, and then we went down to Texas to two joint meetings with our son Josh and his wife Kelli, as well as a missions conference in Garland that was excellent. Unique at the conference was the

fact that we enjoyed the time with not only Josh and Kelli, but also Joe and Jendi Pagano from our home church. The Paganos are representatives with Bearing Precious Seed in Oshkosh. Our home church pastor Jason Brennstuhl preached for the opening night of the conference! Don and Josh then made a trip into Brazil to set things up with Missionary Nathan Ring for the campaign that will take place there in October and November.

Our 51st wedding anniversary celebration was two-fold. We spent the day in Door County in Wisconsin, and then at a later date (on the way to Texas) we attended the marvelous Sight and Sound performance of *David* to cap off our fifty-one years together.

Looking ahead, we have meetings scheduled in Ohio, New York, and Massachusetts, and then we launch into the fall scripture campaign in southern Brazil.

Don's health is doing well, but I do ask for prayer for myself as I deal with back issues. Right around Resurrection Sunday, while doing some deep cleaning, I felt something pop and then pain. After chiropractic care,



Top photo: Don and Laura on their 51st wedding anniversary  
Photo above: Don and Josh with Pastor Brennstuhl at a missions conference in Texas



Above photos: Don and Laura and Josh and Kelli along with two pastors from two different churches where both Don and Josh spoke

traction, and adjustments to no avail, an MRI was called for. (It's tricky because of my cochlear implant). It revealed a 25% slipped disc between L4 and L5 along with severe spinal stenosis. An injection was given me in June with very limited relief, and another was given August 13. I am praying that this second injection will alleviate the pain. Please pray along with me. James 5:16

In closing, you folks--partners in this ministry--are so very much appreciated. Every prayer, every encouraging note, and every sacrificial dollar on behalf of our work through Couriers for Christ is a great blessing. We are bonded together accomplishing the Great Commission. We do not take it for granted. You are vital to everything we do. Results from the campaigns, outreaches, containers filled with scriptures, translation work, etc., all will abound to your account in glory. THANK YOU from our hearts!

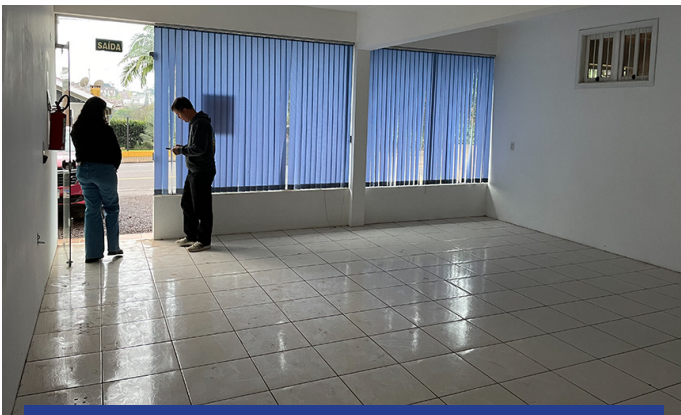
Yours for souls still waiting,

*Laura Stertz*

**The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. - Ruth 2:12 -**

## Opportunity Awaits

...continued from front page



Hall we rented to store Bibles and John and Romans for the campaign, and possibly to use to start a new church in

This is the area where Nathan took Josh and me to begin to scout out and prepare to hold the Hope for the Valley Scripture Distribution Campaign taking place October 27 through November 11, 2025.

This was my first time in the country of Brazil. What surprised me, at least in this particular region of Brazil, were the similarities between this area and Eastern Europe when it was under communist rule. The construction of the buildings and even how the people looked were very similar. Later we were told that many of the people in that region are of European descent. When we would travel into the city suburbs or out into the rural areas, I could see that the people were very poor and did what they could to just survive, much like the people in Eastern Europe had to. The biggest difference was the amount of traffic in the larger cities. (During the communist rule there were very

few cars found in Eastern Europe). Another similarity between Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and Eastern Europe is their openness to the gospel.

As we traveled from city to city doing research for the campaign, we handed out gospel tracts. None were refused. In fact, most people would break into a big smile and thank us. In Brazil we have the freedom to hand out gospel tracts and Christian literature. In Eastern Europe during communist times it was strictly illegal! I'll never forget the time when I asked Hungarian pastor Laszlo if we could go to downtown Budapest and hand out gospel tracts. He said, "Yes, until the police come and arrest you."

Will you pray about joining us for the Hope for the Valley Campaign this fall and help distribute the word of God to these Brazilian souls?



- Healing for Laura's back pain
- Safe transport of scriptures to Brazil
- God's protection and provision for the campaign team members
- Direction for future campaign cities and missionaries



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