



Dr. Don & Linda Leaf
 Missionaries to
Brazil

1 Corinthians 9:19
 ... yet have I made myself a servant
 unto all, that I might gain the more.

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Dear Faithful Friends,

Pandemic: A Time for Evaluation

In our area of Brazil, we have now been under the restrictions of the Brazilian health system for over five months. Just as in other areas of the world, those restrictions have affected all areas of life. We have especially seen the effects in the churches. Brazilians are very social people and being prohibited to gather together or have any kind of physical contact has been hard on Christians. The churches are now allowed to have services, but with several limitations. No one over 60 or under 12 years of age is supposed to attend the service. The number of people cannot exceed 1/3 of the normal congregation in any one service. There must be social distancing, 6 feet, between persons or families. There can be no singing, and the service cannot last longer than one hour.

These restrictions have had two major effects on the churches. It forced the leadership to find ways to minister. Preachers have used videos and live streaming. Visits have been made by standing on the street and speaking with the person through the gate. Meetings and Bible studies have been done using various computer applications of group participation. Although not the ideal thing, these things have allowed the churches to minister. It has also revealed those who genuinely love the Lord and His Word. Because it requires discipline to watch a video or live streamed message, many have neglected the hearing of the Word. Those who have taken the effort have grown in a special way. What is important is how the focus has been upon the preaching and the teaching of the Word.

Pandemic: A Time of Evangelization

The very restrictions along with the uncertainty has caused people to think about subjects before ignored. This has opened many opportunities to witness and to teach biblical truths. Even those who claim to be Christians have begun seeking answers to questions about their personal relationship with the Lord. They have also been forced to observe the wicked conditions of the world and the need to live a separated life. The lost are facing the truth of immanent suffering and death. Many have lost their source of income and are facing daily hardships. They realize that money, fame, and power have no guarantee of protection. This uncertainty has made them willing to listen the Gospel.

Pandemic: A Time to Rejoice

With all the chaos, sadness and fear, God's people can rejoice in knowing in whom we have believed and that He is able to keep us both now and in eternity. Living in the joy of the Lord, makes us light and salt in this dark and rotten world of sin. It is this that has given us courage and opportunity to be a blessing. We thank you for your faithfulness in being salt and light where you are, as well as, in our ministry through your prayers.

With grateful hearts,

Don + Linda Leaf

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