



News from

The Yelles

Serving the Lord in

Caxias do Sul, Southern Brazil



January 10, 2024

Dear friends,

The year's end is a blur for us right now. There is a lot that happened, both loss and victory, with many other blessings in between. We praise the Lord that we saw His handiwork through all our experiences.

We spent nearly six weeks in the USA in November through December. The original plan before August was that Neila would spend two weeks helping taking care of her mother to allow her sister and brother-in-law to take a much needed vacation. John's dad however, who is 88 years old, was having serious health issues with his heart, so we decided that he also would go to see his ailing parents as we hadn't planned to be stateside until late July 2024. We had been planning a special vacation to celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary, so we decided to make it part of the trip.

Airline tickets were purchased in August to depart on November 10th. Before our trip, John's dad had heart valve replacement surgery, which also revealed the need of a pacemaker. His health was weakening fast. In October, John's 87 year old mom suffered a small stroke and was hospitalized and his dad had his pacemaker put in. Trip plans were able to continue as both parents were stable. However, days before our trip, John's mom took a turn for the worse, and four days after our stateside arrival, John had to take an emergency flight to Washington State. Four hours after his arrival by her bedside, she passed into eternity.

Bitter as the situation was, the Lord gave us grace in our time of need. Also, John was able to spend a lot of time with his dad, ministering to him during our loss. There are many ways we see how the Lord orchestrated this whole trip, and space on this page doesn't allow for the detailed story. However, through this difficult time we learned that John's parents have given testimony of receiving Christ as their Savior apparently sometime over the past year or so. They had been witnessed to by us, our daughters, John's sister and others for the past 37 years. We look forward to seeing mom again, perfectly whole! Please be in prayer for John's family, especial his dad, Ron (his health and life adjustments).

We praise the Lord that we had missionary Jeremy Bennett to help lead the church ministry in our absence. The preaching and teaching however was taken care of by both Bro. Vilson and Bro. Jonir. Brother Jeremy's Portuguese is greatly improving, and is nearly ready for a full preaching or teaching message. The ladies and children ministries were lead by missionary Joneia Bennett (our daughter).

We returned to Brazil in time for our Christmas activities, which included a Christmas Eve service with a dinner afterward. Forty-five people participated! Bro. Jeremy headed up the choir, with members being trained for the first time singing techniques by he and his wife, Joneia. We sung a four part harmony Christmas hymn.

Our prayer requests:

- Our upcoming youth retreat February 9-10.
- Furlough scheduling (August 2024 to July 2025)
- Leadership training for the ministry here.

We greatly appreciate the prayers for our family and ministry. God bless!

In His service,

John & Neila Yelle

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