

A visit from Alabama supporters

By J. Randal Matheny, in São José dos Campos, Brazil

Two brothers from the Madison AL church, Siegfried Bill and Bennie Pinckley, visited us Sept. 3-7 to observe our work and share ideas about future projects. The Madison church began support of the GoSpeak effort this year.

Brethren from SJC Campos and Taubaté congregations converged Saturday, the 3rd, on Humberto and Aline's home in Taubaté for a barbeque. Some 25 people were present to honor our guests. The informal fellowship gave Siegfried and Bennie opportunity to mix and mingle with some of the Christians here.

Bennie preached in the SJC Campos church Sunday morning, Siegfried in the Taubaté congregation that afternoon. Their time with us was a pleasure in every way. They both encouraged us greatly.

STUDIES SHORT AND LONG. The Taubaté church started a Sunday school program in July. I'm teaching now through Philippians. For now, our class lasts only 30 minutes. Also, in the SJC Campos church for the last quarter of the year, I started a Bible school series called "The Commandments of Christ." Like almost all our material, the series is an original which I'm doing from scratch.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, a non-Christian visitor showed up for our **Advanced Bible Study**, so, since what I'd prepared was inappropriate for those outside of Christ, I shelved it and did the first part of an evangelistic study.

Our home study group moved from Wednesday to Thursday evenings. We continue to follow the New Testament reading schedule, taking the chapter of the day, usually. We have both Christians and non-Christians attending. Recent readings, as we call them, have come from Romans and Matthew.

INTERNET MINISTRY. The new Forthright Magazine site (forthright.net) had a few hitches, but we hope they're solved. In September, the Portuguese-language devotional site DeusConosco.com ("God with us") hit a record high of 6,045 visits. The previous number was just over five thousand.

FAMILY DEATHS AND ILLNESS. Over the past few weeks, we've had several concerns in our nuclear and extended family. We ask your prayers for these.

- Aug. 26, my brother Kevin, 38, announced he had pancreatic cancer. His prognosis is not good.
- Sept. 3 and 27, Vicki was hospitalized twice, with tachicardia. She's doing exams and consulting doctors about treatment.
- Sept. 29, my cousin Gary Holt of Blytheville AR died in a Memphis TN hospital.
- Oct. 2, 19-year-old Cameron Bernal, son of Gerald and Jennifer Austin of Iuka MS, close friends like family to us, died in a single-car accident.

MORE PRAYERS. Pray for these needs as well: a new meeting location for the SJC Campos church • the conversion of those studying the gospel • Leila's process, lengthy in Brazil, to get a driver's license • new efforts in evangelism.