

# Ministry Annual Report for 2014

## **John and Yvonne Baab** **in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil with ABWE**

### **A. A Brief Summary of our Ministry Assignment:**

- During the first half of 2014, we were on furlough, and were able to visit supporting churches and individuals in Ontario, Colorado, and Florida.  
In February, we took Track 2 of a Biblical Counseling Course at Faith Church in Lafayette, Indiana.
- On July 24th, we arrived back in Brazil.
- John continues working with the Bible College as Academic Dean and taught two classes.
- John and Yvonne are again attending the church in Stella Mares. John sang in the Christmas cantata, and both are part of teams teaching Sunday School classes: John, the men's; and Yvonne: the teens'

### **B. Special Blessings and Highlights:**

- In December, we enjoyed participating in the graduation ceremony of two of the students.
- During our absence, the college continued to function in the central location in Salvador under its capable Brazilian leadership, offering both classroom and online courses.
- An offer of donated land to the college is being seriously considered. If accepted, the center of the college ministry will move, however, several extensions will still continue.
- John finished the computer model and commentary on the Ezekiel temple (Ezekiel 40-48) placing it on our website. [www.baabfam.com](http://www.baabfam.com)
- We truly enjoyed our visits to our supporting churches and the chance to see family and friends.

### **C. Difficulties Encountered:**

- John continues with his special diet due to many allergies, however, he is feeling much better than in 2013. Allergy tests, performed in Canada, indicated other problem areas which have been helped by avoiding certain foods he had not previously realized were problematic.
- Our leaving in July was complicated as Yvonne's stepmother's health worsened. In June, she had been admitted to hospital, and was unable to return to her seniors' residence. During our last week in Canada, we helped in her move from hospital into an interim nursing care facility. In November, she had a crisis, was rushed to Emergency, and died two days later. Yvonne, as power-of-attorney, was in Canada for most of November, and, thankfully, was able to care for all of the details.

### **D. Evaluation of Progress Made in Last Year's Goals:**

- 1) **To visit the remainder of our supporters before returning in July.** Basically Accomplished - Contact was made with all supporters, though it was not possible to personally visit two churches and a couple of individuals.
- 2) **To find adequate housing and a vehicle after we arrive in Brazil.** Accomplished - Both the car and the house are far better than we could have afforded since we were able to purchase/rent from friends.
- 3) **To fit back into the ministry of the Bible college, this time as Academic Dean and professor under the national leadership.** Accomplished - John and the leadership are working well as a team, though some organizational challenges remain.
- 4) **To decide if we will continue to help in the Stella Mares Church or if another congregation is more in need of our help.** Accomplished - We have decided to continue ministering in the Stella Mares Church.
- 5) **To research details as to retirement/"relocation"—possibly in 2016.** Accomplished - We are looking to retire/"relocate" in late 2016 or early 2017, and continue to research the necessary details and considerations.

## **E. Key Ministry Goals for the Coming Year:**

- 1) *John*: To help in the decision process regarding the acceptance of the donation of land to the college and, together with the Brazilian leadership, define methodology and goals for future development.
- 2) *John*: To teach at least one course each semester and set up a computerized record-keeping system for the college.
- 3) *John*: As Academic Dean, develop the Scope and Sequence and the curriculum for the courses offered by the college:
  - in the classroom
  - in the extensions
  - online (coordinating with Horizon International Schools)
- 4) *John and Yvonne*: To improve our abilities in Biblical counseling and minister to people in their difficulties and conflicts.
  - attend courses offered locally
  - seek to be mentored in this area by those more experienced
  - seek to be actively involved with individuals in personal counseling
- 5) *John and Yvonne*: To update and improve our family website.
- 6) *John and Yvonne*: To work together with the leadership of the Stella Mares church and to be a blessing in the ministry there.

## **F. Brief Stories about Relationships Developed this Year with the Intention of Sharing the Gospel**

It was very interesting that, on the flight to Canada, Yvonne had two unique opportunities to share with fellow passengers. One, a Brazilian young lady athlete, prayed to receive Christ. Yvonne also had an extensive conversation with a middle-eastern Muslim man who lives in Ottawa. She has had contact, via e-mail, with both, and an ABWE colleague, who works with Muslims, has also connected with the man.

Together, we are endeavouring to get to know our new neighbours with the intention of sharing Christ, and are trying to connect, as possible, with some of our previous neighbours from the other housing development.

## **G. Brief Stories about Christians being Discipled, Mentored or in Training**

During 2014, John has worked closely with four young men at the college who are specifically looking to pastoral ministry.

During 2014, we have had extensive casual contact with a couple. Recently, the wife requested counseling. Yvonne is hoping to establish a regular time to meet with her during 2015.

## **H. People for whom We are Praying and Encouraging towards a Missionary Career with ABWE:**

We are very encouraged that the young lady we mentioned last year participated in a short-term ministry trip from May 7th to June 3rd in Bangladesh working with the ABWE hospital. She is presently pursuing a Masters' degree in nursing and has begun the application process with ABWE for long-term service.

There are others we are praying for, though no specific progress has been made.