



# NEWS FROM CHAIN OF LOVE HOMES

## October/November/December 2024 Newsletter

Dear Chain of Love friends,

Christmas is coming! While December 25 may not be the exact date Jesus was born, it is a wonderful time to celebrate his coming to Earth to save us. Let's rejoice in Him, who left Heaven to die so we could have eternal life. Christmas is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the purpose of Jesus' coming. We can express our love and gratitude to the Lord for the salvation we have in Him and for everything he has done and continues to do for us. In this spirit of gratitude, we'd like to share what God has done for us recently.

### **The Grundens: from North Dakota to Chain of Love**

Sometimes, when people think of a mission trip to Chain of Love, they envision a church group all coming to Brazil together. While this is often the case, families, couples, and individuals are welcome to serve at Chain of Love, too! This was the case recently when an incredible family, the Grundens, from Hillside Baptist Church in Dickinson, ND, blessed us with a mission trip to Chain of Love!



The four members of this family (mom, dad, and their teenage sons) lovingly served our children through activities that included sports, handcrafts, devotionals, and Bible studies when they were here in late September and early October. They also visited the group homes in Campo Bom and Novo Hamburgo. Pastor Rob preached at the Saturday night service and held a men's meeting on Friday. Donna held a women's meeting the week of their arrival and met with the girls over age 15. On their final day, the family provided an ice cream buffet for the children. They concluded their activities and visits in Brazil with a visit to one last house.

If you wish to visit us, please contact [robynhanstad@gmail.com](mailto:robynhanstad@gmail.com) if you are in the United States or [chainoflove.canada@gmail.com](mailto:chainoflove.canada@gmail.com) if you are in Canada. A completely furnished guest house on our campus is waiting for you. It is a safe place since we look after children protected by the state. Visas are not required until April 10, 2025. Even after that date, American and Canadian visitors to Brazil will not have to go to an embassy to get a visa. Only e-visas will be required, and obtaining them is promised to be easy. We are waiting for you in Brazil!

### **Housemothers and some COL staff attend a conference**

Recently, the COL housemothers, other caregivers (i.e., helpers), and some staff attended the Congresso da União Feminina Batista Missionária do RS (Women's Missionary Fellowship of Baptist Conference of Rio Grande do Sul). They experienced amazing days of renewal!

With a theme of "Intertwined," the event highlighted the importance of female unity in faith and serving others. During this event, they felt cared for and blessed, enjoying moments of preaching, singing, fellowship, and greatly needed rest—including in a spa and thermal waters! They also had the opportunity to share about our work and highlight the importance of the prayers and financial support that keep our ministry alive.



At COL, it is essential for us to look after the ones who look after our children. We're thankful for the Alberta Baptist Association's support, which made this transforming experience possible.

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### **A helping hand to our chaplain**

Beginning something new is sometimes very challenging. With this in mind, we invited two American missionaries from Texas who grew up in Brazil to help our chaplain, Moisés, start his ministry. As you know from the previous newsletter, John Allen trained him for two months. After John returned to the States, his brother Joseph came to help Moisés. Both brothers did a great job and are missed here in Brazil. We praise the Lord for their lives and for the lives of those who made their coming to Brazil possible.

### **Telmo and Jaques in Canada**

In October, COL Executive Director Telmo Camargo and Jaques Ribeiro (COL Sponsorship Coordinator) visited three Canadian provinces to promote the ministry, talk about what is going on here in Brazil, and thank sponsors and supporters. It was a wonderful time in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba, where they visited several churches and individuals (families and friends). They also participated in conferences and talked to church leaders, youth groups, and seniors' groups. We thank all of those who made this trip possible, especially the people who helped them plan their schedule and who hosted them. It is much easier to work for the kingdom when brothers and sisters are willing to serve. Our deepest respect and acknowledgement to all of them.



### **Praise the Lord we have three new vehicles!**

Thanks to help from brothers, sisters, and churches in North America, who were used by the Lord to bless us, we finally purchased a new van! Although the money we received was not enough to buy a bigger van (21-seat vehicle), we sold the old one and two of our vehicles that were also showing some wear and tear and bought a 15



-seat van and two more vehicles. While there are many automakers in Brazil, taxes make the prices of vehicles soar.

We are so happy that we replaced three of our vehicles. Our drivers are relieved (because of the now much lower risk of vehicle problems), and our children and teenagers are on cloud nine. From our hearts, thank each and every one of the people, churches, associations, families, and businesses that helped us buy the van and the cars, and, of course, thank you to all of the people who prayed for this need to be met. May the Lord continue to bless you more and more.



### **More thank yous**

We also thank our donors and prayer warriors who keep this ministry alive. The Lord has raised special people like you to bless our children and teenagers. We praise and thank Him for your lives. Thank you to all the people who helped our children and teenagers have a wonderful Christmas (meals, letters, cards, gifts...) and to those sending them to Bible camp in January (summer in the Southern Hemisphere). You are making an enormous difference in their lives.

### **Prayer requests**

- for more of our children to be saved (conversions may occur here or at the camp in January)
- for our housemothers and their biological families (husbands and children) who are serving here in this noble task of looking after children who were despised by their own families
- for the Lord to bless our supporters, and that these blessings may be visible and evident
- for a great 2025 for this ministry.

God bless all of you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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