## OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Gloria Smethers has requested prayer as she carries on with the nursing responsibilities at the AIM retirement center. Her co-workers' in-laws passed away in December and January, and now the co-worker's brother who has been ill with pancreatic cancer is nearing his time to enter heaven. Gloria's co-worker and husband drove to Ohio in late March to be with brother and family. Pray for Gloria as she sees to medical needs of residents, and for wisdom to ask for help from others who can help with driving patients to and from appointments while her coworker is away. Pray for good night's rest each night and time for daily devotions in order to have the necessary energy to think clearly and show patience to the residents and staff!

▶ Congratulations to **Ron and Brenda Anderson** on the birth of their grandson. Jonas Mark Anderson was born on March 10. The proud parents are Ron & Brenda's son Mark and his wife Abby. Ron and Brenda were in the USA and able to meet and hold their precious new addition to the family.

• **Beth Grimm** gives praise that she was able to take her trip to Mexico in March as planned. All went well and her back is healing nicely. However, she still is struggling with stamina issues, and asks for prayer regarding that situation.

**Jamie Farr** spent two weeks in the Middle East last month (April) for his work with Wycliffe. Praise for safety for him while traveling and that Anita and the children were fine during this time of extended separation.

▶ **Joe Toy** will once again be heading out to Indianapolis, IN for the Indy 500 race over the Memorial Day weekend. He and his team will do open air evangelism at this event, passing out tracts and talking to people about their need for Christ. Pray for safety in travel and from rowdy crowds at the event.

• The 2016 VBS/GMC Project is to raise funds for the EC Church in Mexico. They have

a program called IGLEKids (meaning 'church kids') which they are using to bring street children to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Many of these children are orphans or only have one parent, so they are often preyed upon by the drug cartels. The Bethel church at Rio Bravo has a patio which they would like to enclose and put under roof, for the safety and protection of these children while teaching them. This program has had great success, and is being duplicated not only in our other EC churches in Mexico, but non-EC churches as well. Watch for VBS lessons to be posted on our website soon.

Chris Amberman will be coming east to PA in mid June until late July to do deputation. Randy and Chris work with the Navajo people in New Mexico. If you would like to have Chris speak at your church, contact Pat at the GMC office. Email is <u>ecglobal@eccenter.com</u> or call 1-800-866-7584.

▶ Retired AIM missionary **Art Davis** had hip replacement surgery on April 6<u>th</u> in Clermont, FL. Art and Mary Ellen stayed at the AIM Retirement Center during the time of the surgery and physical therapy following the surgery. We are glad to report that all went well.



## **GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION** OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE

MAY 2016

## David & Conce Roof

t was *In Search of Gold* that brought David and Conce together for the very first time in Brazil back in 1987. Not a literal search for gold but the Teen Mission's evangelistic film production by that title! David had come as a team member to film the movie and Conce played the leading female role. Neither one imagined what plans God had for their lives through that encounter, but this past March they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary!



GMC

After marrying, they served one more year with

Teen Missions in Brazil, evangelizing in the area of Belém, Pará. It was during that year that the Lord confirmed His call upon their lives for full time missionary service and they sensed a need for planting churches in this northern region of Brazil.

Completing their commitment with Teen Missions and returning to the States with a burden for church planting in Belém, they began a journey of faith, not knowing how the Lord would fulfill this call. In their thinking, two years would be sufficient for everything to come together. In God's timing, it took seven and a half years of shaping and preparing them for ministry back in Brazil.

Finally, in the year 2000, now with their four-year-old son Andrew, God opened the door for them to return to Brazil through OMS but not to the north, which was the burden of their hearts. OMS only worked in the south of Brazil. In obedience to the Lord's leading they moved to Londrina Paraná in the south of Brazil. During their six years of ministry there working with other OMS missionaries, they were instrumental in planting the *Jardim Veneza Missionary Church*, gaining invaluable experience. Throughout this first term with OMS, God revealed His plans for fulfilling the call to the north. For a long time God had been kindling in the hearts of The Missionary Church (OMS's national church in Brazil) the desire to expand the work throughout all of Brazil. As they became aware of David and Conce's burden for the north it became apparent that God had orchestrated harmony between them to bring about His sovereign purpose.

In 2008, after an extended furlough in the States due to Conce's bout with cancer, they moved back to Belém to begin church planting in the region. Today, in their eighth year of ministry in Belem, they have established the *Missionary Church of Belém* in the district of Icoaraci. They recently moved into their own church building constructed with the help of teams, supporters and local church members. The church itself

My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. PROVERBS 8:19 is reaching out not only to the community around it through weekly ministry but is extending itself in outreach to the *ribeirinhos* (river dwellers) along the *Moju* River. During a recent visit from the Missionary Church's president a vision was cast for planting daughter congregations in new locations and even eventually having an extension of the OMS Londrina seminary in Belém!

In Search of Gold? Seems to me they've found it!

FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

