



Newsletter - Reflecting on 2023 and Looking Forward to the Future (12/12/2023)

Dear Christian Brethren,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we approach the end of 2023, we are grateful for the many blessings and opportunities the Lord has provided us throughout the year. It has been a year of challenges, growth, and meaningful outreach efforts, and we are excited to share the high lights of our mission with you.

1) Field Studies:

Several field studies have been in progress in our pursuit to teach the lost for Christ. Two prospects have advanced in their studies: Juny Kopa, a bus driver and Darsy, a young lady in her 20s. These two understand the need to be baptized and have shown an interest in it but we are still working to get to commit to attending church services. Please pray for them. Mrs. Guerline Joseph also studies with us online.

2) Local Outreach Activities:



Engaging with our local community has been a central focus for us. Through door-to-door visits and outreach initiatives, we have been making and teaching new prospects about the love of Christ. We did a special one-night meeting in the Area of Gibraltar at the community center on August 4, where we had the opportunity to share the message of salvation and connect with the residents. We hope to return there early next year. We also enjoyed a



student preacher visit in June and the school's director from Trinidad in November. Both preached for us during our services.

3) Youth and Adult VBS in July:

Our Youth and Adult Vacation Bible School in July was a resounding success. Numerous youths participated, learning about the value of the kingdom of God, which we chose as theme. Despite the challenges of a packed morning schedule, the evening classes for adults proved tiresome but worthwhile. It was heartening to witness the enthusiasm and engagement of everyone involved.



4) Online Activities:

Maintaining a robust online presence has been crucial in reaching a broader audience. Our weekly streams on YouTube, Google Meet sessions, and WhatsApp engagement have allowed us to teach the gospel beyond physical boundaries. We are thrilled to share the success story of Guerline Joseph, who joined our online study despite attending a different church. She called in to express her desire to know the Bible and asked that we assist her. We welcome the opportunity to serve. Our new website, www.curacaochurchofchrist.com, is live and provides visitors access to written lessons, online services, and essential weekly teachings. It is mobile friendly, which makes it easier for people to access through their phones and handheld devices.



Increasing in Faith

5) Mission to Edmonton, Canada:

In September, we had the privilege of preaching a weekend campaign in Edmonton, Canada, Friday to Sunday. I share six sermons on the theme "Seek the Lord." I enjoyed the warm reception and positive response from the brethren in Edmonton. The preacher heard our lessons online and invited us to share in this mission.



6) Gospel Meetings in 2023:

Throughout the year, we conducted several impactful gospel meetings in Rio Canario, including "Jesus has the Answer" in April, "The Kingdom of God" in July, "Know God's Gift" in April, and most recently, "Jesus in Prophecy" from December 1-3. These meetings have been essential in spreading the message of hope and salvation.

7) Rio Canario Church Fellowship -

Also, on December 3, 2023, the Rio Canario Church held a fellowship meal after our worship services. This gathering was marked by exceptional cooperation among the members, creating a joyful and encouraging atmosphere. The event was a time of spiritual bonding and a celebration of unity within the church body.



One of the highlights of the fellowship was the abundance of food and drink, which various members contributed. The generosity and culinary skills demonstrated by the attendees added to the overall warmth of the occasion. The fellowship symbolized sharing, gratitude, and the spirit of togetherness.

Our photo documentation captured the essence of the event, showcasing the collaborative efforts of all members who lent a helping hand in preparing for the occasion. From setting up tables to arranging the food, everyone played a vital role in ensuring the success of the gathering.

Following the fellowship, in the evening, we continued with the closure of the gospel campaign at 7 pm. The feast seamlessly transitioned into a more reflective and spiritual tone as members gathered again. Prayers, spiritual songs, a message on prophecy, and expressions of gratitude for the shared effort marked the conclusion of the gospel campaign.

The Rio Canario Church demonstrated its commitment to spiritual growth and its ability to foster a sense of community through events like the fellowship. The success of this gathering is a testament to the dedication and unity of our church members. Please keep us in your prayers.

Reflecting on 2023, we acknowledge the challenges faced, likening it to a year of digging through hard soil. However, we remain hopeful that, by God's grace, the sowing and reaping will become more accessible in the long run.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for your kind support in the gospel. Your prayers and financial support have been a source of strength motivation in our endeavors. As we enter the holiday season, we wish you all a joyous Christmas filled with the warmth of Christ's love and a blessed New Year. Please take a look at our 2024 mission plan and pray for us. [Click Here](#)

From Alford, Patricia and Evalyna Lazar

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Pictures after worship: December 3, 2023





Members at work turning auditorium into a fellowship hall



Some removing chairs while others securing song books



All hands at work!





Then it was time to spread the tables!



The meal was colorful and delicious!





One brother told me: “ I enjoy it, are we repeating it next week?”





Everyone stood in line for their meal!

Precious enjoyed her meal, a sister prepared Roti for her! One of her favorite dishes!



Precious enjoyed her meal, a sister prepared Roti for her! One of her favorite dishes

Answering question during fellowship:







**Lazar
Family**

**Brother
Noel, one of
the local**

leaders at Rio Canario, his wife Amelie! In this photo brother Noel celebrated his 67th birthday.



New Faces in church

Children's Vacation Bible School- Kids are wearing their crown



VBS activities at the building
Transporting Kid during the VBS:



Kid in the Building:



King gives his instruction!



Patricia is sharing lollipops:



King VBS seated on his throne.



Reflection of VBS theme: "The kingdom of God" (Kings where crowns).



Local ladies assisting during VBS:



It's lunch time at VBS



Final VBS day!



Group Photo



Kids who showed for worship after VBS



After VBS- Since the VBS we have been following with the some of the kids. Some attend Sunday services and our youth activities on Friday.



Curtis and his family after church: two daughters and son.

Group picture:





Since VBS, we are following up with some of the Kids. We conduct an activity with them every other week. W have a special time planned for December 14- We will feed them with spiritual and physical food, get them excited!















Sports day: VBS is never complete without some action on the ballfield.



Second Generation VBS Kids: Odala Noel, mother, was an active kid in VBS for many years. This year her two kids got the chance to participate in VBS for their first time, while vacationing in the summer. Odala's parents are brother Noel, dad, and Sister Amelie, mom. Odala and her kids live in Holland.



Now this smile is contagious!