

NEWS from BRAZIL

Prayer Letter N° 93
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BRAZIL

Dear Christian Friends,

“Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth forever.” –
Jeremiah 33:11b.

Our semi-annual letter will reach you a little later this time, due to an all-out effort to finish all the books in progress when Edi and Helen took over from us. It only remains to print the last 5 titles and our feeble efforts at publishing will be complete. However, there is still much work to be done and we are disposed to continue as long as God gives us health. The 250 items on the Price List of “PES” are merely a sample of the good books in English that need to be translated. Kindly pray for Edi, as he seeks to augment that number with other titles relevant to the needs of Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

The big event of these past months was our Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 17th. (Imagine on St. Patrick’s Day!) We did not want any “fuss”, but a modest celebration lunch at a local restaurant was a very happy occasion. Though no guest who was at the wedding (in Manaus) 50 years ago was present, nearly all who were present were friends for most of 40 years. It was enhanced with the presence of Tommy and Sharon, who came from the U.S. specifically for the occasion. Tommy had to return to his responsibilities in Syracuse a few hours after the celebration, but Sharon stayed for another week. They both had a big part in the details of the anniversary luncheon. A kind neighbour made a beautiful and delicious cake.

Many of you remembered the date and sent greetings – lovely cards and e-mails. Our warmest thanks!

Tommy and Sharon are still living together (with Stalin, the cat) in Syracuse. Tommy’s contract has been renewed for another year, teaching at the University. Occasionally He is sent to other locations to teach, evaluate prospective new students for SU and proctor exams, etc. He continues as teacher of an adult Sunday School class at North Syracuse Baptist Church; also serves as treasurer for the missions committee.

With advances in technology, Sharon is able to work for PES from any location via internet and Vonage connections. She is presently revising the translation of the biography of Jonathan Edwards. It was not really a good translation, so the task has been very time consuming.

Running the risk of being misunderstood, misinterpreted, or even criticized, we would say that this great country needs much, much prayer. For the majority of the citizens leisure and pleasure always take preference over work. Though God's name is often mentioned in conversation and invoked for help, there is little evidence of a desire to know Him personally and live under His control, according to His Word. Church life leaves much to be desired. Evangelical churches, so-called, need to be purged from man-centeredness. As for doctrinal, expository preaching, it is practically non-existent. Biblical spirituality is substituted by sincerity and carnal zeal. Activists are adulated. We desperately need men anointed by the Spirit of God. Above all, we need revival.

Alas, the subject is seldom mentioned. Oh, for a Whitefield, a Daniel Rowland or a Howell Harris!

As always, we are grateful for the communications received from you between our letters. They encourage us to keep going. Though some have concluded that we have retired, that is not the case. Whether here, or elsewhere, we hope to die in harness!

Your co-labourers in Christ,

Bill and Mary

Bill and Mary Barkley

PS. Kindly pray for us as we continue to seek to downsize. It isn't easy, having been in this home for nearly 35 years. In fact, due to other demands, little has been done since sending our last letter.

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E-mail: tbarkley@syr.edu
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PPS. Please do not send monetary gifts to us in Brazil. If so desired, kindly use the addresses below and advise us of your deposit. We regret that it has been impossible to acknowledge some gifts because the banks have not registered the names of the donors on the statements. In fact, we have not received statements for the past eight months indicating deposits, in spite of our requests for them. Barclays have let us down badly!

In the UK:

Barclays Bank plc
a/c # 10908320 Bank Code: 20-69-17
93 Baker Street
London W1A 4SD

In the US and Canada:

First Commonwealth Bank
a/c # 204204506 Routing # 042102940
311 North Arnold Avenue
Prestonsburg, KY 41653-1101