

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

One more year is almost gone as one more Christmas approaches. I praise God for the announcement of peace that the angels proclaimed on that night and that peace has been more than ever with us. During the good and the hard moments that my children and I have gone through this past year, in everything and in every moment God has been so good to all of us. He has given me strength to engage back in the children’s and ladies ministries here in Mindelo, on the Island of São Vicente; including with children’s Sunday school classes of three different age groups, Bible studies, and crafts every Saturday. I have also been counseling them concerning our real place at home as mothers and wives. I’m also helping cook for sick people and visiting with other ladies to encourage them to get back with the Lord.

The church has been having all of the normal services, even though the attendance is still small. Brother Nathan Fritz and his family just arrived here with me in São Vicente. Brother Nathan is the missionary that stepped up to fill my late husband’s shoes in the ministry here. We are praying that once he takes over God will bring the increase to the ministry and that more souls will be saved and that all of the members feel more encouraged to engage in God’s work.

During the month of December, we have been encouraging our people to give a special Christmas offering for our building project. Last year, we were able to raise 35,000 escudos for that project which is the equivalent of about \$350. This was a big achievement considering that none of our church members make more than \$100 in salary per month. The total estimated amount for the sanctuary construction project is about \$100,000. Besides the special love offerings that we are trying to raise every year during the church anniversary and Christmas, next year we will be having a yard sale to also try to raise more funds. Every year the church here has been working very hard to be involved in this great achievement. I would like to ask each one of you to please pray about this. As God touches your hearts consider also helping us raise a Christmas present to whom deserves the most, Jesus. This special love offering is to help complete the amount that we need to reach our goal: \$60,000. This will allow us to build a house for our Lord and Savior in Mindelo São Vicente. Our church here will be always grateful to each of you for your help.

As we end this year, again I want to send my special thanks to each one of you that have been so close to me and my children in the time we needed you the most. We do remember each one of you and your ministries in our prayers. I will be leaving this next week to spend Christmas and the month of January with my daughter and her family. My son will also fly to be with us as well for the holidays.

May the announcement of peace that the angels brought to us, be always in our hearts, our families and our ministries. May each one of you have a very special Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Much love and prayers,
Nilza DeCarvalho