



# MARCH & APRIL 2023



***Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."***  
***Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)***

**Dear mission partners!**

**How are you doing?**

This is the second official newsletter from our congregation here in Southeast Florida! We are excited to share our latest news with you and hope this finds you and your loved ones well and healthy!

### **SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST**

- **BILINGUAL SERVICES IN PORTUGUESE-ENGLISH:**
  - Our greatest news is that we have started hosting weekly worship services at the clubhouse in Boca Raton.
  - We started off with a great attendance on March 5 but it has dropped a little when compared to the number of attendees that we had when we were meeting only once a month.
  - “My Life’s Purpose” is the theme that we are developing this year.
  - We are averaging now around 20 adults and children every Sunday. We also continue to broadcast the service online on Facebook Live for those that can’t come or are far away.



Worshipping our Lord together at the clubhouse in Boca Raton!



Junior preaching and Maikon translating!



Kids' and pre-teens' classes!

### ● BIBLE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE

- We continued using the CASA (LIFE) study method for our Friday evening small group. We finished our study of Philippians and started a new series on James.
- Three families have opened their houses for our studies these past two months: the Liras, the Guzmans, and the Reis-Medlins.
- We've maintained an average of 15-20 people who attend both in-person and online.



Studying Scriptures!



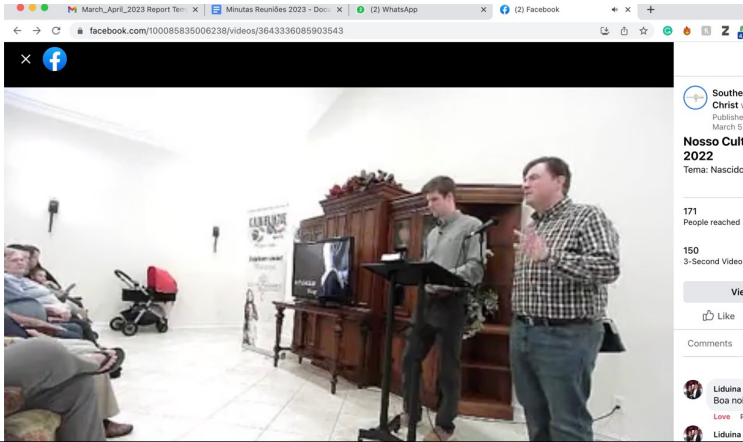
Celebrating brother Mariel's birthday!

Praising God!

● **SPRING BREAK TRIP FROM COLLEGE COC**

- A group of Harding University students from the College CoC in Searcy (AR) was here with us for their Spring break week. The College CoC helps sponsor our church plant here in Florida.
- The group, led by Grant and Kayla Fitzhugh, helped us with an array of different activities:
  - On Sunday, March 5, Grant preached to us on our first weekly worship service. The other students helped during the service and the ladies taught the kids' classes.
  - On Tuesday, March 7, we spent the day passing out flyers for our ESOL classes and Pastoral counseling sessions.
  - On Wednesday, March 8, the group sang acapella songs at the clubhouse and we invited church members and neighbors to come watch their presentation. We also had a short devotional that night led by Junior.

- On Thursday, March 9, the group did some service projects and in the evening had a devotional on the beach.
- On Friday, March 10, the group led a fun evening of Bible stories and games for the kids and teens. In the meantime, the parents got to enjoy a romantic night-out at a Brazilian restaurant. The Borbas stayed with the College group while the Liras went out with the adults.



A screenshot from our Facebook Page: brother Grant preaching to us!



The college girls teaching one of the kids' classes!



Passing out flyers!



Choir Presentation!



Service project!



Devotional on the beach!



VBS for the kids and teens!





Parents' night out at the Picanha Brazil Restaurant!



The Guzmans were the speakers!

### ● SPECIAL EASTER WEEKEND

- On Saturday, April 8, we had a fun Easter egg hunt at Sugar Sand Park in Boca Raton. We also had a picnic and devotional with the families that attended with us!
- On Sunday, April 9, we had a special worship service in which we focused on Jesus' death and resurrection.

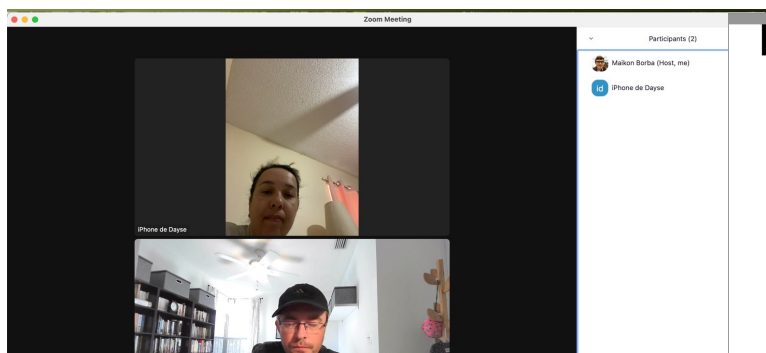
Looking for the Easter eggs!

Learning the real meaning of Easter: our Savior Jesus!



## LET'S START TALKING – ENGLISH LESSONS

- Maikon currently has 9 students.
- We had a very successful advertisement campaign while the group from the College CoC was here. The hundreds of flyers that were passed out around the Brazilian community generated at least a dozen phone calls from people interested in our English lessons.
- There is very high demand for lessons in the evening (after 7:00 PM). Thus, Maikon is planning to start a second group class on Thursday evening now in May. He is hoping to have around five students in this class.



Since we don't yet have a building, Maikon continues to teach most of his classes on Zoom!

### UNIT 2, LESSON 1

2. **to begin, began:** to do the first part; to make a start.

- We **begin** class on time.
- Simon **is beginning** to fish.
- James **began** to talk to Andrew.



3. **to help, helped:** to give or do what is needed.

- I **help** my husband and my children.
- He **is helping** Simon's mother-in-law.
- Jesus **helped** many people.



4. **to tell, told:** to put into words.

- We **tell** our friends about Jesus.
- Simon's wife **is telling** Jesus about her mother.
- I **told** James and John to begin.



5. **to take, took:** to lay hold of, to grasp.

- I **take** my child's hand to cross the street.
- He **is taking** her hand.
- Simon **took** the food from his mother-in-law.



6. **to wait on, waited on:** to stand or sit until someone comes.

- Simon **waits** on Andrew at the synagogue.
- Simon's mother-in-law **is waiting** on Jesus.
- Simon's mother-in-law **waited** on the disciples.



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English Lessons From the Bible, © 2007 North American Mission Board, Reproducible for educational purposes.

## JUNIOR:

- Junior continues to offer counseling and Bibles studies to the Coutinho family. He's also received several phone calls from people interested in pastoral counseling.
- Junior has been making himself available to help our church members with their emotional needs.
- On March 28 Junior attended a conference of Brazilian Pastors here in South Florida. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow ministers in the area and make some important contacts.



Junior with the Brazilian Ambassador!





- **LADIES' MINISTRY:**

- Tati has started a monthly Bible study with the ladies. They call it "Ladies' Bible Club."
- Their first get-together took place on a Saturday afternoon, on April 22. The ladies are studying the book "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. They also enjoy coffee and tea together and do some journaling.



Our church's ladies having a great time together!

- **MEETING WITH CONGREGATION:**

- On April 21 we had a special meeting with the official members of our congregation. We used this time to present to them our plans to rent a church building soon and also plead with them more active involvement and participation.

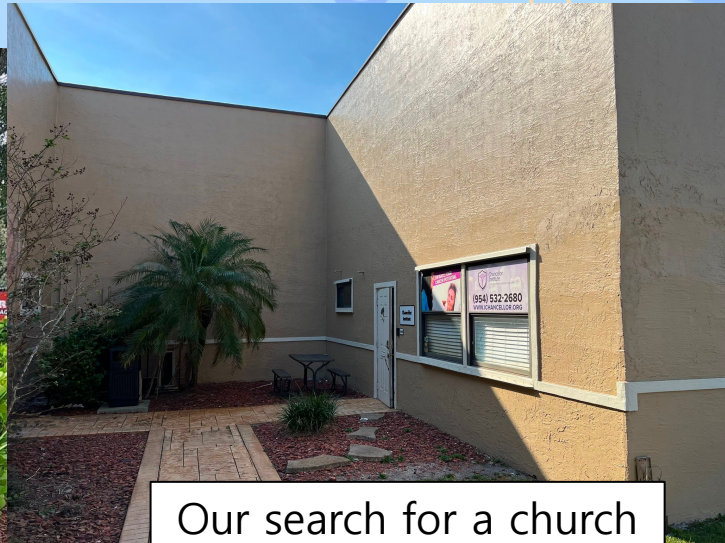


Most people were able to attend in person but we also had a few that participated via Zoom!

### **OUR SEARCH FOR A CHURCH BUILDING**

- Unfortunately, we still don't have a church building and we continue to meet in the clubhouse for Sunday worship.
- We were very close to signing a lease for a great location in Coconut Creek, but the landlord gave up on the deal on the day which we were supposed to sign the lease. A true bummer.

- We keep on looking and have a couple of realtors working with us. Please continue praying that we find a good building soon!
- We're currently trying to raise some additional funds. This way we will be able to increase our budget a little bit which will allow us to have more options available.



Our search for a church building continues!

### WORK WITH THE CHURCH IN CORAL SPRINGS

- Now that we are having weekly worship services, it's become harder to also attend church in Coral Springs. However, we still try to go whenever we can.
- We appreciate that both Riley and Mauricio (the two missionaries from The Springs CoC) have attended with us in the evening. Their support and encouragement is truly a blessing to us.
- Unfortunately, our idea of forming a partnership with The Springs CoC has faded away. Joining budgets and finding a common place that would suit both congregations has proven to be a hard thing to accomplish. Both parties have maintained the idea to keep working separately and only offering support to one another.



The Springs CoC celebrated their 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March!

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- The Southeast Florida Church of Christ and the future of our Brazilian congregation.
- Our search for a church building.
- Our two families as we continue to work and bond together.
- Our English students and contacts.

JOIN US

*in*

*Prayer*

**We love you and appreciate your support and prayers so very much!**

**In Jesus,**

**The Borbas & The Liras**