



# ZION MINISTRIES

*Mt. Abarim Baptist Mission International*  
"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." Ps. 122:6



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Dear Friends of Zion:

Your faithful prayers and offerings blessed us again this month! We are grateful.

On a recent Sunday, Wanda, who attends the Tuesday night Academy of the Study of Bible Prophets, brought Francisco, a Crypto Jew (Portuguese "Marrano" or "new Christian") to church.

Marranos are descendants of Jews who were forced in the Inquisition to change their last names and convert to Catholicism or be burned at stake. Multitudes of such converts fled to Brazil, but secretly maintained Jewish customs and even used the Star of David in their constructions. Many with family names of animal, vegetable or mineral derivation are of Jewish heritage, but don't even know it. Some studies have shown that about 20% to 25% of Brazilians are affected, even up to 40% in Northeast Brazil.

Marranos were not welcomed back to Judaism. But times are changing! A leading Jewish publication in Brazil has printed two major editorials within the last five months calling for such Jews to reclaim their identity. A major division of Beit Chabad is actively trying to convert them back to Judaism. Meanwhile, various so-called "Messianic Synagogues" or congregations have sprung up, trying to convert Marranos to their form of "Christianity." Most are radical Pentecostals or extreme legalists who speak of Jesus as Messiah, but not as God.

Francisco had some background in a church that teaches baptismal regeneration and had become interested in his Jewish origins. Thank the Lord, I had the privilege of pointing him to his true Jewish MESSIAH, our GOD and SAVIOR, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. He gladly accepted CHRIST and received assurance of his salvation. He lives about two or three hours--one way, by bus--from our first church, depending on the city traffic! We located a sound church near his home that he can attend. Wanda's zeal for the salvation of Jews has not been in vain!

Meire, a faithful participant of our Friday night Friends of Zion meetings for whom we requested prayer last month, went home to be with the Lord. She will be sorely missed. Both Meire and her husband are of Marrano Jewish background, as described above. They taught their children to be proud of their heritage as they raised them in a Baptist church near their home. One of their daughters and her husband are trying to obtain entry to Israel through their studies at the University of São Paulo.

May God richly bless you all.

Yours for the Messiah,

Tom and Linda Gilmer

**PRAISE:**

1. Professions of faith: (1 Jew, 8 Gentiles)
2. At Meire's funeral, her family challenged others to love Israel as she did.
3. One volume of the History of the Portuguese Bible is now ready for printing.

**PRAYER:**

1. Salvation of Jews and Gentiles.
2. Ongoing projects (Bible study helps, media outlets, and warehouse for Bibles).
3. Work on History of the Portuguese Bible.
4. East Timor Tetum Bible translation project
5. A job for Francisco, Marrano Jew who accepted Christ.