



BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 2021

Editor Janelle Daum

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“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Philippians 3:10-11

The Summer Olympics just took place a few weeks ago. I have always enjoyed watching athletes from around the world straining to give everything they have to win medals that prove that, at that moment in time, they are the best in the world. The ultimate prize is to win a gold medal and stand on the podium and hear their country's national anthem played as their country's flag is raised.

E-mail: jbvbeditor@hotmail.com your article.

What does it take to get to that point? First you have to be committed to the goal of winning a gold medal. After that you put in the work that it takes to achieve that goal. That means years of getting up early in the morning every day to prepare for your event. It means hours of specialized training. It means that you ignore the pain of sore muscles and work through that pain. It means that you give up anything that doesn't fit your goal. You don't get to eat all of the foods that your friends are eating. You don't get to go to all of the events that other kids do. You go to bed early and you get up early. Everything you do is designed to help you reach your goal. It's called sacrifice.

That's the same level of commitment shown by the Apostle Paul in his life. In Philippians 3:11 he states that his only goal is to attain the resurrection of the dead. In v.10 he describes the elements involved in that commitment: to know Jesus, to know the power of His resurrection, to share in His sufferings, to become like Him in His death. To achieve that Paul lived a life of sacrifice.

He goes on in chapter 3 to describe what that sacrifice looks like. First, he acknowledges that he can't quit training because he hasn't reached the goal. In v.12 he tells us that he still has more training to do, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect." So he continues to sacrifice. Verse 12 goes on to say, "But I press on to make it my own." Pressing on means that he puts in the hours of work and training. He fights through the sore muscles and the pain. He sets aside anything that doesn't accomplish his goal of knowing Christ. He never allows himself a break or a vacation. He gives it all up for his goal. His motivation is what Christ has done for him, "...I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own."

He repeats his commitment and willingness to do whatever it takes to achieve his goal in vv.13-14,

“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Notice the words that he uses to describe how difficult it is to achieve that goal. *He forgets about the past.* Too often we let the past determine our futures. We let our failures or our mistakes affect what we do in the future. Paul refuses to do that. He recognizes that the past is past. We don't have to be what we were. We let the Holy Spirit change us so that we see the future as a clean slate that doesn't include the failures and mistakes and sins of the past. That's what it means to be transformed. We are new creatures in Christ.

Next, he uses the word *straining*. He recognizes that the Christian life isn't easy. It isn't easy to be different than others. It isn't easy to give up some of the things that others get to do. It isn't easy to refuse to do something that is sinful and takes us away from our goal. We have to work hard, to strain to do that. I picture a runner who is giving their all to win their race. Their face is red. Veins are standing out in their neck and on their forehead. The pain is evident and it shows. They are digging deep to draw on every reserve of energy that they have within them. That's what it means to strain. The goal is everything. We give up everything within us to reach that goal.

The next word is that he *'presses on.'* His eyes are locked on the finish line. He doesn't let anything change his focus. The goal of attaining the resurrection from the dead is the most important thing in his life.

He refuses to allow anything take his attention away from it.

So how does this apply to us? It's the measure for our spiritual maturity. How much of this describes you? That is how we learn how far we have to go. Paul says in v.15, "*Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that to you.*" Are you trapped in the past and everything that has gone on? If it was sinful, then get on your knees and repent. Then leave it where it is, under the shed blood of Jesus. If it was a failure or mistake do everything that you can to make it right, and then move on from it. Learn the lessons from the past and let yourself be free to live a transformed life. When you do all of that you are ready to lock your eyes onto that finished line.

The final challenge here, in v.16, is to not lose what you have gained, "Only let us hold true to what we have attained." Don't go backwards. Always keep going forward.

This is Paul's encouragement to us to be Olympians in our Christian life. Set the goal and then go get it. It isn't easy, but it opens up all of the blessings of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Randy

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND BEYOND

EVENTS CALENDAR 2021:

Sunday's

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Fellowship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for the Whole Family

One Room Sunday School for Preschool (age 4) - 8th grade

Wednesday's

Begins September 8, 6:30 p.m. Awana Clubs

We are in need of a Game Leader and a Sparks Leader.

Please see Erica if you are interested or have any questions.

Time Pending Middle School/High School Youth Group

Thursday's

12 p.m. Prayer & Women's Bible Study at BVBC

Women's Evening Bible Study will resume in the Fall

Saturday's

Men's Bible Study will resume in the Fall

Monday, September 6, Labor Day

Saturday, September 11, 8 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting

Sunday, September 12, Grandparent's Day

Sunday, September 19, Newsletter Articles are Due

Wednesday, September 22, First Day of Fall

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH



WARRIOR 180

Warrior 180° Foundation is a Christ centered organization that has been established to:

To reach out to military, veterans, first responders and their families with the saving grace of Jesus Christ, by teaching and training in local communities.

Come alongside these warriors with comfort, support, resources, hope and help for the struggles they are facing.

Challenge the church and communities to be faithful in supporting those who have put their lives on the line and supported our country by providing teaching and training in these areas.

About Jeff

Jeff is the founder and Executive Director of Warrior 180 Foundation. Jeff's heart is to come along side of those who are hurting and offer care and compassion as well as equip others to

reach out to those in need in their community. Jeff received his BA in Psychology from the University of Sioux Falls and his Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Care from North American Baptist Seminary, and received his Chaplain Residency at the Cleveland Clinic. Jeff worked in full time church ministry since 1982 as well as hospital chaplain in the intensive care and emergency department. Jeff served in the US Army Reserve for eight years as Battalion Chaplain. He was a Master Trainer for the US Army in suicide intervention. Following his deployment to Iraq/Kuwait in 2010-2011, the Lord gave Jeff the vision for Warrior 180 Foundation. Jeff has witnessed hundreds who have returned home from deployments and begun experiencing life troubles. It has also become evident that our first responders on the home front are suffering much the same. Therefore, he believes that it is time for our country to walk along side of those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Isaiah 40:31 “but those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they walk and not grow faint”.

About Criss

Criss is the daughter of an Air Force Veteran, and also sister to a Retired Army CPT and Sister in law, a retired Army Reserve LTC. Criss & Jeff have a son who served two tours of duty in the war on terrorism in the middle east before receiving a purple heart and medical discharge from the Army. Criss has a varied back ground from beautician, librarian assistant, nanny, accounting. Criss enjoys sewing, quilting and crafting as well as being a grandmother to Bryce, although distance has made it tough to spend the time she yearns for with him. Criss is the organized / detailed piece of WARRIOR 180 FOUNDATION. As Executive Assistant she works on the schedule, emails and business details.

Gal 2:20 (The Message) “I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that.”

Contact Information:

warrior180.org

Phone: 270-925-9873

MISSIONARY UPDATES

CHAIN OF LOVE HOMES

April/May/June 2021 Newsletter

Dear Chain of Love Friends,

This is our second newsletter of 2021! We would like to share with you some information about events that took place at Chain of Love during the months of April, May, and June. It was a hard time for us with COVID-19 spreading on our campus and taking the life of Sandra, the housemother in the Transition House. We are still trying to process and overcome this devastating loss. Many hearts here are broken and it is not easy, but the messages that several of you sent to us after Sandra’s death comforted us. Also, your prayers have helped us go through this sad moment in our story. Thank you so much.

COVID-19 AT CHAIN OF LOVE

Several children, teenagers, houseparents, and staff got COVID-19 in April. We can mention houseparents Aclécio and Eliane (House 3), Marco and Fabi (House 7), and Sandra (Transition House). While Aclécio and Eliane had no or light symptoms, Marco and Fabi had

moderate symptoms, and Sandra had to be taken to the ICU. After battling for her life against complications caused by the virus, Sandra went home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sandra fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). She was a teacher who decided to dedicate her life to looking after the young adults who had lived in our regular homes and, after turning 18, didn't have a place to go and so stayed with us in the Transition House. Sandra's role was to prepare them to function independently.

Sandra is missed not only by the young adults who live in the Transition House, but also by the teenagers, children, other houseparents, staff, and many people from Canada and the US who came to Brazil to serve at COL and had the wonderful opportunity of meeting her.

Valdir, our maintenance manager, also got COVID-19. His situation was as serious as Sandra's. However, the Lord helped him beat the disease. He was discharged from the hospital and is now resting at his home. He still needs to have respiratory physiotherapy because COVID-19 caused a lot of damage to his lungs. Please pray that he will fully recover soon.

PARTNERSHIP WITH FEEVALE UNIVERSITY

Some local authorities, representatives of Feevale University, and the Rotary Club in Campo Bom started a partnership with Chain of Love. According to this partnership, the university provides medical students (supervised by their professors) to serve our COL community as part of their practicums. In turn, we don't have to pay anything. The only thing required was a proper place for them to work. Starting this partnership was so important that Chain of Love had to rush to transform part of the technical center (downstairs) into an outpatient clinic. It was a race against time because the school year had already started, but we made it! The outpatient clinic doesn't have anything to

do with the project mentioned in the previous newsletter (the medical office), because the medical students can't be here all the time. The medical office, on the other hand, will remain open every day.

COMMUNICATION WITH OUR SUPPORTERS

Due to a series of events out of our control, our communication with our supporters was greatly delayed for some time. This includes thank you letters. We are working hard to get our communication back to normal. Please, accept our most sincere apologies.

OUR WEBSITE

Our website has a new look! Please, check it out at www.larcolmeia.com.br Don't forget to click on the right flag to access the website in your language!

OTHER PROJECTS

Medication

As more children and teenagers come to Chain of Love, there are more expenses for medication. These children have experienced so much trauma in their young lives, caused by the way their biological parents treated them or by drugs their mothers took during pregnancy, and they often need medication to give them a better quality of life. We are spending around US\$1,900 (or CND \$2,300) per month to buy medication. Some medications are freely provided by the Brazilian government, but others have to be purchased.

Umbrellas

Winter has come to the Southern Hemisphere and although we hardly ever have snow in Brazil, this part of Brazil does get a lot of rain. We would like to provide umbrellas for our children and teenagers. We estimate about US\$810 (or about CND \$1,000) will be enough for

us to buy 150 umbrellas for our kids.

A new fridge

off-campus home 1 In Novo Hamburgo no longer has a working fridge ... We are in need of a good fridge that will be used by the ten children and teenagers who live there. If you would like to contribute to any of these projects, you can send any amount to the NAB (<https://nabconference.org/give/chain-of-love/>). Please, always specify the purpose of your donation. Thank you very much.

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray that we can find someone to replace Sandra in the Transition House. We need a committed Christian woman to continue the great work done by Sandra.
- Pray for Sandra's mother and siblings as they face this terrible feeling of loss. Pray also for all of us at COL that the Lord will continue the process of healing our deep pain over the loss of Sandra.
- Praise the Lord that little by little things are starting to get back to normal in Southern Brazil: vaccination has taken off and authorities estimate that all adults will be vaccinated with at least the first dose by mid-September (the COL moms are being vaccinated). Our children now have in-school classes.
- As a consequence of things going back to normal, pastor Carlos Artur and his wife Sandra resumed their ministry at Chain of Love. Several teenagers have given their lives to Jesus and are about to be baptized. Please, praise the Lord for this and pray that many more will surrender to Jesus.

God bless you richly,
Telmo Camargo

AMANDA BENSON - PHILIPPINES



August 1, 2021

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

While I was in quarantine in a hotel last week, I went through (finally) and cleaned up my phone pictures...for the last three years. :) It was great to look through all of the memories from the last three years. I have so many special people in my life and so many sweet moments with them. As I came to the end of my furlough year's pictures, I started seeing the pictures for the beginning of last school year. What a year this past year was!

I had no idea last year when I started school that I'd be getting ready to start a second year of teaching online a year later. Last year, I was stuck in the US with no idea of when I'd be allowed in the Philippines. It was a very stressful start to the school year, as I had to figure out how to change my teaching to teach online. It took me until the end of the first quarter to feel like I had room to breathe. But as the year went on, things became much more manageable, and I ended the year on a high note.

Now, as I get ready to start this year, I'm feeling much more confident. I have some idea of what I'm doing, and two of the three different classes I am teaching are repeats of last year, so many of the materials are already prepared and just need to be tweaked. This year I'll be teaching 7th grade Pre-Algebra, 8th grade Algebra, two classes of 8th grade English, and continue my advisory co-coordinator position. We are also in desperate need of a high school math teacher, so I will be covering the high school algebra class as well until God provides someone for this role. This puts me over full-time, but I'm praying that it doesn't end up being much extra work, since I will be doing the same material for my high school and middle school algebra classes.

At the end of last year, I was asked to be a part of the Spiritual Formation Committee. Our goal is to work together to create a plan to foster spiritual growth in the lives of our students. We have realized a couple things through our discussions: 1) If we want to foster spiritual growth in the students, we also need to foster that in the staff, and 2) Prayer is the most important aspect of fostering spiritual growth in our students' lives. This has been personally challenging to me as I consider my own spiritual life. One of my "theme verses" for this school year is Colossians 4:2, which says, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." I have come to realize that growing in prayer never happens by accident; I must be intentional if I want to grow in prayer, something I want to work on this year.

Would you pray with me as we start this school year? Here are some things you can be praying for:

- That God would work mightily in the lives of the staff and students to draw them closer to Him this year.
- That God will provide a high school math teacher
- That students and staff would stay motivated through online learning.
- That the government would allow us to go back to face to face

learning soon.

- For the new staff that are transitioning to Faith Academy and living in the Philippines, especially during continued lockdowns.
- That the staff that are teaching from out of country would have the strength and wisdom to be able to do that.

Thank you for your investment in my ministry and the ministry that so many are doing here in the Philippines. We cannot do what we do without you!

New Staff Orientation starts tomorrow (Aug 2)! All staff meetings will start on the 9th, and students start on the 16th. Ready or not, here we go!

God bless, Amanda

Praises

- I made it safely to the Philippines with no hiccups! I also have only one full day left of my quarantine!
- Many of our staff members have arrived in country or are about to come back! Praise God for His provision for them to be able to return.
- I am feeling much more confident as I start this school year!

Prayer Requests

- Check the bullet points in the letter above! :)
- Pray that God would grow me in my prayer life this year.
- Pray for balance and wisdom in the things I am doing this year. Pray I would know what I should do and shouldn't do and would have a good balance of time.
- Pray I would have wisdom to see what God wants me to in terms of discipleship this year.

August 18, 2021

PowerUp! Prayer Update

Praises

- It has been an excellent beginning to the school year! I am on top of things this year and still have had plenty of time to rest and spend time with others. How different this is than what it was like last year!
- I loved getting to meet my students, even though it was on video meetings. I will be meeting with them a bit more this year than last year, but a majority of our learning will be asynchronous.
- I have had a breakthrough in an area of struggle this week, which is a huge praise! I'll probably write more about it in my monthly update. :)

Prayer Requests

- The internet at school (and at my house) has gone in and out a bit. Pray that it would be steady so that we can all do the work that we need to do for teaching and learning online.
- Pray for wisdom as I talk more about discipling students with others and get into the routine with a few I was discipling last year.
- Pray for continued balance in how I spend my time and that I would continue to enjoy teaching, even with it being online. Pray I'd be able to make strong connections with my kids and build relationships with them.

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- That God will revive the hearts of the staff and students this year, that we would passionately follow after Him.
- That God will give us wisdom as we continue to navigate the Covid situation, and that we would be able to meet in person at some point this year.
- That God will lead me to opportunities to disciple students this year.

SHAN REED - JAPAN



August 2021

Praises

- Praise the Lord for inviting us into relationship with Himself and for showing us how to love others through hospitality.
- Praise God for a home assignment filled with ministry of a very different yet vital kind.
- Praise God for our new missionaries, the Gaudio family! Please continue to pray with us as they raise support and prepare to join us in Japan.

Prayer

- Pray for Komyo Christian Church as they have only been able to meet in person two times in 2021, and for our light to continue to shine brightly even when we cannot meet in person.
- Pray with me as I teach the Japan Baptist Conference youth virtually for our summer online gathering.
- Pray for my family as we navigate the transitions of this season of

life.

- Pray for me to reimagine hospitality as I return to ministry in Japan.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3–5

Home assignment this year has been one of the most unusual home assignments I have experienced. As I have mentioned over and over, thank you to each of you for your understanding as we have navigated this time together. I missed seeing each of you, sharing what God has been up to in Japan, and catching up on your lives. Because of all that has been happening in my life during the past six months, I have to honestly say that if I had had to travel as much as I usually do, this would have been a much more difficult home assignment.

At the beginning of July, the North American Baptist Conference held its Triennial Conference virtually. Although we did not have the fellowship that is usually such an integral part of the conference, it was good to gather and learn together.

The theme for the conference was Reimagine Hospitality. In a time of travel and gathering restrictions, this was a timely theme. What an encouragement to be reminded that God is our principal example of hospitality through creation, the incarnation, even through the ascension.

I am grateful for the way so many of you showed hospitality to me during my home assignment. I learned much about being a host and being hosted even through Zoom gatherings, phone calls, and emails.

Because I have been living in a different city this home assignment, and because of the pandemic, I was not able to attend my home

church, West Center Baptist Church in Madison, South Dakota. Before returning to the US in January, I had been praying about where to attend church during this home assignment. God led me to Trinity Baptist Church in Sioux Falls. I am so grateful to these brothers and sisters in Christ who have shown hospitality to me in more ways than I can recount here.

Another surprising place I have learned about hospitality is at the nursing home where my mom has moved. The staff and many of the other residents have taught me how to welcome the stranger and those in need. May I also mature into a woman who welcomes others generously.

I have shared in several of my recent newsletters that we have a new missionary family preparing to join us in Japan. Would you be willing to show hospitality to the Gaudio family by joining us in praying for their support-raising process? Maybe you would take a moment to send them an encouraging email to let them know you are praying (rafa.sylv7@gmail.com). Or maybe you or your church would even be willing to join their support team. Visit their page on the NAB website: nabonmission.org/missionaries/raffaele-sylviagaudio/.

As I write this newsletter, many of you have been praying for my travels to Japan at the end of July. My plans changed, and I am still in the US. My new departure date is August 17. Thank you for your prayers! When I arrive in Japan, I will need to selfquarantine at home for 14 days.

One other update from my July email; I forgot to put my condo number on my address. My new address is: 7701 S. Townsley Ave #212, Sioux Falls, SD 57108.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel as we reimagine hospitality together in the places where God has placed each one of us.

Shan Reed

August 16, 2021 UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for the way you have supported me through prayer over the years. I know many of you are praying for my safe return to Japan so I wanted to give you a quick update. Today my family had a meeting with the doctor and care team at the nursing home where my mom lives. Mom has been steadily getting weaker over the past few months and we decided that it is time to start hospice care. With that decision made, we also decided that now is not the time for me to return to Japan. Please pray with our family as we walk this road with my mom.

Thank you for your care and understanding.

Soli Deo Gloria, Shan (not) in Japan

RICK & DEBBI BARDIN - CAMEROON



August 2021

TIMES OF CELEBRATION IN MBINGO!

Prayer

- The road to the hospital has been blocked recently. Please pray for quick reopening.
- Pray for completion of the hydroelectric project soon. Power outages

have been frequent and interfere with patient care.

- Pray for Dr. Mbanga to successfully complete his final year in the Pathology Residency in Kenya.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

ROMANS 12:15 (NASB)

Greetings dear friends and family,

Here is a quick update of recent happenings.

- Ordination of a young man whom God has transformed from a boy at our front door trying to sell us a small chicken, who then worked for us as a gardener and eventually went to bible college and is now a pastor!
- Birthday of a dear friend who is a recent widow.
- Graduation of a friend from the Bible Training Course for Pastors and Leaders.
- Anniversary of some friends from church and work.
- Send forth of our youth pastor to seminary.

We are greatly pleased to report that the group of doctors Rick worked with before coming to Mbingo, Southwestern Medical Clinic in Michigan, has a foundation (Southwestern Medical Clinic Foundation) that has chosen to donate toward the purchase of an automated slide scanner for Mbingo. They are committing to match donations up to the sum of \$25,000. The matching campaign has been going on for about two months now, and the Lord has provided 80 percent of the goal! The purpose of the scanner is to increase our capacity to make virtual slides available for reading by volunteer pathologists. This will help greatly with keeping the workflow going during times when Rick is away from Mbingo and will also help with caseload and ability to obtain consultations even while he is working in Mbingo. If this project

is one that you would want to support, the information on how to do so is below.

You may make your donations to:
nabconference.org/give/special-projects.
In His Matchless Love, Rick & Debbie Bardin

Missionary Contact Info.

Amanda Benson:

Website: send.org/benson

Email: oboejo09@gmail.com

Address: 113 E. Leighton St., Brandon, SD 57005

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: SEND International
PO BOX 513, Farmington, MI 48332, Missionary #169352

Chain of Love Home

Website: www.larcolmeia.com.br

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Shan Reed:

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7701 S. Townsley Ave #212, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Rick & Debbi Bardin: See instructions Below

How To Give to North American Baptist Missionaries:

Step 1: Go to the NAB's new missions webpage nabonmission.org.

Step 2: Click on the “**missionaries**” label.

Step 3: Click on the national missionary to whom you would like to designate your support.

Step 4: Click on the “**give to..**” button on the national workers page.

Step 5: Fill out the form. All gifts given through the NAB are tax deductible.