

Pastor Adauto & Gina Rezende – Graciosa Island Azores-2017-2018

Hello Brothers/Sisters in Christ.

Blessings,

I pray that all of you are strong in your faith in Christ, our Lord.



This is our first month in missions at one of the Azores Islands. Gina and I are glad to serve the Lord during this time.

in Graciosa Island which in Portuguese means: beautiful (and it is a true designation for its name), it is beauty!



Right now we are at the beginning of the winter season with frequently wind and rain. In the morning black clouds cover the skies, and drizzling for a few hours, with the sound of a rough sea because of the strong winds. Around 1pm the sun shines for a couple of hours and then the clouds come back again.

Fishes, dairy products, potatoes and pumpkins are abundant; or else twice a month a ship brings other goods to supply the town's stores.

The islanders, in their majority are simple people with a low income. I was told that about thirty percent of the population work for the government in different public services. There are big and luxurious homes in all the villages around the Island; however they are closed much of the year. The owners are natives whom immigrated to the States and Canada, coming down only in summer times.

Alcoholism rates are very high; consequently there are many problems with families' relationship and much hurting hearts. Even though isolated from the European Continent, the youth, due to the Internet influence and of the massive secularism through television shows, don't follow the religion of their parents and most consider themselves atheist. Many of the locals open their doors to hear the Word of God, but for fear of persecution and retaliation from family and friends, they don't make a decision to follow Christ. There are five baptized believers in the entire Island (as I was told), fruit of the work of some missionaries that evangelized years ago, but didn't plant any local church.

From these five brethren, one couple ministered Sunday services for some years (they didn't have any theological training, but did their best to keep them in the faith), however last year they suffered a burnt out and, as a result they stopped attending and ministering the meetings, therefore, the services were ended. There was a pastor from

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other Island that used to visit them every other month, but due to difficult in his own ministry, he has not being able to come, he also told me the impossibility at the moment for his denomination to send missionaries to Graciosa

This is a short report from the socio-economic and spiritual challenges of the place; however the Lord has people here. When I left Canada, I

knew that here, was the place where we should be and the Lord has been opening doors to share the gospel. I know that this is also a result of the prayer of many.



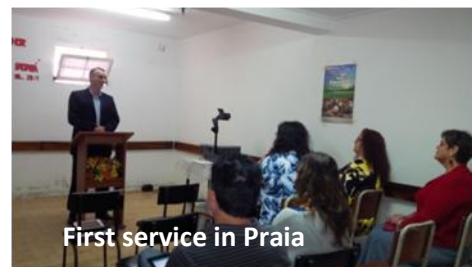
We are living in a village called Santa Cruz, the most populated in the Island, but the meetings take place in another village called Praia, seven kilometers from where we live.

In our first service, seven persons were gathered together, and since then, they are attending regularly the services on Sunday morning and the Bible studies and prayer

meetings on Thursdays.

This week we had an open air service in the town's market place. Two students made the decision to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. We gave them both a Bible, prayed and got their contact to visit them in the following days.

Last week, we started at home a Bible study and prayer meeting on Wednesdays, and we are seeking for a place to rent in Santa Cruz to start our services on Sunday afternoons.



In the last three weeks seven people made the decision and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior and next Saturday (Dezember 11th) we are going to baptize a couple.



Few weeks ago, the Lord also blessed us with a car (Renault 93). It was a miracle, since to rent a car here would cost us 500 Euros per month, and we bought this one for 750.00 Euros. Even though is an old car, it is serving us well, since transportation here is not that easy. Some of the church's folks don't have car to attend the service at Praia,

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so we drive them in two trips on Sundays. As soon as we start a church in Santa Cruz, they will not need ride anymore, since most of them live in Santa Cruz.

We have been giving tracts, New Testament and the audio Bible for those who do not know how to read or are blind. In the beginning of December we are going to show in Santa Cruz Municipal Theater the movie “Hope”. Erik, the missionary who is serving in Brazil with Wycliffe mentioned about this evangelistic movie and we bought the DVD before we left Canada. We are in the process to get the dates with the authorities to start making fliers and posters to invite people to watch it. We are going to keep our open air meetings in the other villages as well on Saturdays morning. I have brought to the Island a rechargeable speaker that last for 5 hours (I can plug a guitar and microphone on it.)



We really need your prayers, for all things will be possible just by the power of the Lord. Please, pray for the new converts, for the meetings we are holding weekly, for a place in the main town for our meetings, for the Sunday’s school and the kids, for the December’s evangelism outreach, for a missionary couple to come next year to stay in a long term mission, for our health and like one of

Paul’s requested,, “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.” (Ephesians 6: 19).

We are always praying for all of you and missing you as well!

Regards,

In Christ,

Pastor Aauto Rezende