

Hope Renewed in Christ

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REJOICING IN THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS WITH THESE TWO BY THE BEAUTIFUL TREE

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HOWDY FROM PLANO, TEXAS

During this Christmas season, I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the incredible ways God reveals His love and faithfulness, especially through the lives He is transforming around the world. Recently, I had the privilege of witnessing God's amazing work during an outreach trip to a recovery program for men battling addiction. It was humbling to see how He moved in their hearts, drawing some of them closer to Him. I'd like to share one powerful story that glorifies His work through this ministry in Juquitiba, Brazil.



LEFT: SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE MEN DURING THE SERMON



SHARING SMILES AFTER IMPACTFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MEN –
MEN WHO RECOMMITTED THEIR LIVES TO GOD

JUNIOR'S JOURNEY BACK TO GOD

Junior, a man from São Paulo, Brazil, joined the recovery program after years of struggling with addiction and feeling lost. When I arrived, he had been there for two months, searching for hope and a renewed connection with God. During my time there, I was blessed to spend time with Junior and the other men, playing games, sharing meals, and hearing their stories.

One afternoon, while playing dominoes, Junior and another man, Leandro, asked about my journey. Through a Libras interpreter, I shared how God transformed my life, delivering me from addiction and worldly desires. I could see in their eyes a longing for the truth, and I felt a deep burden to pray for them, trusting God to work in their lives.



On December 5th, during a morning devotional, an invitation was given for anyone ready to surrender their life to God. Leandro and another man stepped forward, but Junior seemed to wrestle deeply with the decision. I continued praying for him, and felt God urging me to deliver a message on my heart specifically for Junior. I typed out, translated it into Portuguese, and sought him out.

I found Junior sitting with Leandro, smiling. When I asked if he wanted to hear what God had revealed, he immediately agreed. As he read the message, he fought back tears, trying not to show his emotions. He shared, "This is exactly what my heart looks like. I believe God sent you to me." With the help of an interpreter, we prayed together, and Junior recommitted his life to God.

Afterward, Junior shared that he had accepted Jesus as a child but had wandered far from Him, falling into heavy drug addiction and hopelessness. Joining the recovery program gave him a chance to seek God, but he still felt empty—until our visit. He explained that God used the testimony and sermon I shared and the message I gave him to answer many of his prayers. Like the prodigal son, Junior returned to God, trusting Him to rebuild his life.

Junior also expressed how the experience opened his eyes to recognize God's omniscience. He acknowledged that I couldn't have known the details of what he was going through, but God knew—and through this, he saw how deeply God cares for him.



MY LEADERS, MARI & LUIZ, WITH LEANDRO -LOOK AT HIS GLOWING FACE



THE SIX OF US LAUGHING WITH EXCITEMENT TO LIVE RENEWED AFTER COMPLETING OUR SCHOOL

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

As we prepared to leave, the men shared how impactful our time together had been. They explained that previous visitors often kept their distance, but our intentionality—sitting with them, building relationships, and showing God's love—revealed a glimpse of God's character to them, just as Jesus ate with sinners. I was reminded that God's work is not about what we do, but about His power to transform hearts when we humbly obey and rely on Him. This experience reminded me how important it is for us to reflect God's character and magnify the actions of Jesus so that others can see Him through us.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. May this season be filled with the joy and hope that only Christ can bring.

In His Love,