

W5 on Missions

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” Mark 12:30



The Janzen family at the soccer field.

Who... Doug and Jill Janzen

Doug spent his early years in Victoria, BC. He graduated from Prairie Bible College in 1990 and then Regent College/Carey Theological College in 1996 (M.Div.).

In 1988 Doug went to Brazil to assist with the Pantanal Project, being the first Canadian Baptist Volunteer to serve overseas. Since then he has been actively involved in cross-cultural ministry in Canada and abroad.

Jill was born and raised in Vancouver, BC. She earned her B.A. 1986 and B.Ed. 1988 from University of British Columbia.

In 1987 she taught in Japan for 9 weeks and then 5 years teaching French, English, and ESL to high school students in Surrey, BC. In 1993 Jill enrolled at Regent College, graduating with a Masters in Christian Studies.

Jill and Doug met at Regent and in 1995 they were married. They have 3 lovely daughters: Devorah, Anneken and Katrina.

Where... Dourados, Brazil

Brazil is the largest country in South America.

Capital: Brasilia; largest city: Sao Paulo

Population in 1996: 188,078,261 (estimated)

Government: Federal Republic; President - Luiz da Silva

Climate: Rainforest, tropical; equator passes through Brazil

Language: Portuguese

Religion: 74% Roman Catholic, 15.4% Protestant, 7.4% Agnostic or atheist

Jobs are mostly in agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

Brazil has lowered the poverty rate to 18.5% of the population, a 19.8 % reduction in four years.

One of Brazil's claim to fame is football (soccer), having won the World Cup 5 times.

When... June 2001 to December 2002, the Janzens were CBV at the seminary; then in 2003 CBM sent them as long term missionaries to teach at the Ana Wollerman Baptist Theological Seminary, the same school where Doug's parents, Karl and Kathy Janzen, spent 28 years serving with CBM.

What... From *Janzen Field Update, Winter 2006*

To sum up in a word what they've been doing: discipleship. They have represented the Canadian Baptist community in a ministry of leadership development over the past 3 1/2 years.

Doug has carried a heavy teaching load as well as giving time to his role as Community Coordinator/Chaplain: overseeing spiritual initiatives (chapel times, retreats), social events (movie nights, sports parties), and community life in dorm housing situations.

At their home church, First Baptist Church, Douradas, he teaches an advanced studies Sunday school class.

Jill makes their house a home. She supervises Devie and Annie's homework (Portuguese assignments from school and additional workbook studies in English).

The girls attend a Christian school each weekday morning. Jill also takes them to swimming and other activities.

Jill takes their youngest Katie to speech therapy 3 times a week and provides her with the special care that she needs for development. Katie has made significant progress and is starting to express herself verbally more and more.

When time permits, Jill teaches conversational English to seminary students.

Why... One of the most fulfilling aspects of their ministry has been the opportunity to share knowledge and encouragement with so many wonderful students.

Ronel Dias Pereira, a 2006 graduate, came from a very rough background but saw his life transformed by Christ. He sensed God's call and began to study at the seminary in 2003. Doug was Ronel's adviser as he worked on his thesis. Ronel was led during his time as a student to drive on his motor bike 75 km to Rio Brillhante every weekend to do outreach ministry: visiting homes, being involved in schools in two rural settlements. He has been able to share the Good News of Jesus in schools and students' homes. This ministry will continue in 2007 because Ronel has been appointed as a full-time regional missionary by the Southern Association of Baptist Churches.

Things to pray for in 2007:

For the graduates of 2006 (9 in Theology and 5 in Religious Education) as they minister and put their studies into practice.

For the new Bachelor of Theology degree being offered (starting February 2007) through the distance education department of a local private university. This will expand the ministry of the seminary.

25 people completed entrance exams in December; others will do so in February. A first year class of 40 would bring financial stability to the seminary for this year. Pray for the students as they study and prepare.

Pray that details for the Janzens' year of home assignment starting summer of 2007 will be worked out.

Lorna McCain Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW