

## MAY - JUNE 2021

Paul the apostle, one of the greatest soul winners this world has ever seen, was given a divinely ordained opportunity to testify of the kingdom of God to very powerful and influential people. He did everything he could to persuade those around him that Jesus was the Christ. And yet, the following is how Scripture describes the results of Paul's evangelistic efforts: *Acts 28:24* *And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.* It's really that simple. Our job is not to convict, but to simply to declare the truth of the Gospel to the lost world. Numbers aren't a measure of success or of the power of the Holy Ghost. I'd say Paul was filled with power from on high, and yet some believed, and some didn't. The power of the Holy Ghost is not measured by success or results, but by obedience. There was no big revival. No packed tent meeting. He wasn't successful in converting the Roman government to whom he was ordained to preach the Gospel. The best he got was "*Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian*" in Acts 26. Some might consider this a failure, since, they say, the power of the Holy Ghost produces results. Agrippa should have been persuaded, Felix should have repented, and Caesar himself should have trusted Christ. Rome should have been a global theocracy propagating the Gospel rather than becoming the scepter of Catholicism that would persecute Christians for almost 2 thousand years. Viewed through that lens, Paul was an immense failure. But in



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### Prayer Requests/Praises:

**PRAY:** For more doors of opportunity to witness



the eyes of God, he was an obedient servant, and the result was some believed, and some didn't. This fact didn't take the wind out of Paul's sails though. He continues just as faithfully as he always was. He stayed focused on the task at hand - preaching the Gospel - and refused to be distracted by flawed expectations of some measurement of Holy Ghost power.

I say that because a couple weeks ago I went out with a few men from the church for soul winning. I met a man named Claudisney sitting outside a bar with a beer in his hand. As most Brazilians are, he was very polite and attentive. I was able to talk with him for quite some time. However, it soon became clear that he was more interested in the fact that an American was speaking to him than he was in the Gospel. Times like this can be quite discouraging, especially since, like Paul, the desire is not to "shoot the breeze" but rather to preach the Gospel in hopes to win a soul! We have a mission from God, a passion to give the Gospel to those to whom God has called us. And often this passion is met with indifference, some believing and others not. Please pray for Claudisney. I left him with a Gospel tract that I hope will sow seed in his heart.

Please continue to keep our visa situation in your prayers. Our lawyer has been helping us tremendously. However, we ran into a snag last week at our appointment with the visa agency. No one communicates in the governments here, so the requirements are always changing depending on who you happen to talk to at the agency. We had all our paperwork ready, but when we arrived, nearly half of our documents were the wrong "forms" even though the correct forms are nearly identical. It's just mere technicalities, but that's the name of the game when you're dealing with government. There are a couple more documents we need from the States as well, so please help us pray for a speedy conclusion to this matter. We're applying for permanent residency, which if approved, will be the last time we'll have to deal with visa applications and renewals for a very long time.

In closing, please help us pray for rain here in Franca. We're in one of the most severe droughts in history here, so they've begun rationing water in the city. During the month of September, we will be without water 1 out of every 4 days on rotation. If rain doesn't come, October will see a much greater rationing of water.

