

**ESCALE Ministries – Brazil**

**2021 Mid of Year Report**

**Main training activities of the last 6 months**

* Exposition on the Gospel of Mark: Every Tuesday, one-hour online class to 12 Pastors and leaders.
* Prayer and mutual encouragement: Every Friday, chat with Pastors and leaders and prayer meeting for one hour online (around 18 people).
* Sunday evening services: every week online; to people who can’t go to church yet.
* Two training bases: Both presential, with more than 15 Pastors and leaders each.
* Small trips to some poor regions to distribute baskets with basic food.
* Reading, writing and preparing teaching material.
* Communicating to Pastors and leaders over the phone (WhatsApp), emails and phone calls (nearly every day).
* Trying to raise funds to help people during the pandemic, especially those linked to ESCALE. Most people help with food or clothes. But we are trying to raise money since there are many people who besides going hungry, also lost their home for not paying rent and other bills. There are entire families who use to have home of their own and now are living in the streets (it is sad to see entire families living like that).

**Other activities of the last 6 months**

We have constantly been praying with people, especially those in need. I have been able to use most Sunday morning to preach in different churches in order to give a break for Pastors who are feeling exhausted. By God’s grace, I am also discipling an old friend of mine, meeting with him every Wednesday evening for an hour. There are other activities such as speaking at funerals, talking to people who lost relatives and friends.

**Encouraging stories, or feedback from students from the last 6 months**

Many students testify to us that they are growing immensely and enjoying the teaching. Few have ever received structured, comprehensive theological training of any kind. Many students are saying that ESCALE’s teaching material and methods are useful and appropriate in their context to understand the Word of God so that they can easily teach others as well. A group of grassroots Pastors recently told us that they feel they are growing; not only learning, but also practicing and drawing closer to God.

**How many people have we trained in the last 6 months?**

We are involved in on ongoing training of 48 Pastors and leaders.

**What geographic regions have we worked in over the last 6 months?**

Due to Covid-19 we have been within our State of Minas Gerais, in Southeast Brazil. However, thanks to technology we have trained people from other States, far away from our home town. We have been able to visit and train grassroots Pastors and leaders in regions within 300 miles of where we live.

**What are your top 3 challenges for the next 6 months?**

* Buy a bigger and reliable car to take the training and social help to places of difficult access;
* Organize a team of volunteers to provide social services and training in different skills together with ESCALE’s theological training;
* Help to provide food and other items for people linked to ESCALE who are facing loss of job and income.

**We would like to share some prayer requests for the next 6 months.**

Please pray…

* That God continue to touch people’s heart to contribute towards the ESCALE Ministry Vehicle Project.
* That we may be able to help to provide food to as many people as possible;
* That God continues to protect our family from COVID, especially our daughter, Camila, who works as a full-time nurse at a hospital.
* Thank God that we have been able to train at the grassroots both online (Exposition of Mark, on Tuesdays) and presential (2 training bases in different places).
* From 19-26th July, we will travel to Itaobim Town (420 miles away). I am taking 3 former ESCALE student with me: Pastor Levi, Pastor Gil and a young leader called Samuel. We will buy and take with us several baskets of food to give to poor people. Besides that, we will help to build Pastor Aparecido’s church’s building, visit people at their homes (rural areas), evangelize and held a Seminar on Preaching for grassroots Pastors.

Please thank God with us for…

* That we have been able to train grassroots both online (Exposition of Mark, on Tuesdays) and presential (2 training basis in different places).
* Good partnership of generous people towards the ESCALE Ministry Vehicle Project;
* Partners who are always praying for us;
* Preservation of our health during the pandemic;
* Joy and motivation to carry on doing what God has called us to do.

Thank you very much for your partnership in our ministry in Brazil.

Nelson & Marcia Salviano

For ESCALE Ministries, Brazil.