At the CROSSroads

Special Interest Articles:

• Are we truly preachers of the CROSS?
• "Back in the Saddle" or "Behind the Wheel?"
• "Better to know now than find out later!"

Individual Highlights:

Importance of the Cross 1&2
Back in the Saddle 1&2
Car Campaign 2

Newsflash!

PEF NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING!
1. Go to www.pefministry.org
2. Click on "Bill & Aïda Hamilton Ministry" link
3. Fill out online form and submit.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE CROSS?

“When it comes to the sublime task of preaching God’s Word, there are only two ways. The first is the way of faithfulness, and the other is the way of popularity. It is not possible to be faithful and popular at the same time (Luke 6:26). Or we preach the wrath of God towards a rebellious sinner and the cross of Christ as the only solution for this human dilemma, or we will not be preachers of the gospel” (Brazilian pastor & theologian, Daniel da Silva).

As Easter is fast approaching, we are reminded that faithfulness to the centrality of the cross of Christ is crucial to Christianity. His death, burial and resurrection are what Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 as the "gospel"... simply stated!

Pray that Semana Santa ("Holy Week"), as the week leading up to Easter is called here, will allow us hundreds of opportunities to boldly proclaim the Good News. Usually during the first six weeks of a new semester we focus on evangelism and exposing new students to 8-32, since many of them are literally lost (morally, socially, intellectually... spiritually). The Christians we meet are usually so happy to find other believers on campus, while some unbelievers are very open to the gospel.

So, the week leading up to Easter is CROSS time! We plan on exposing hun-

Back In The Saddle... Because We Have No Car!

That's right. After nine weeks on furlough in the U.S., we returned to Brazil on March 1. Our furlough was actually quite refreshing as we were able to see family and supporting friends in Houston and Oregon. In addition to updating supporting churches and a number of ministry partners over some delicious meals, one of our goals for our time in the U.S. was to try to get our older daughter, Amelia, settled into a community college near my (Aïda's) family. To make a long story short, Amelia returned to Brazil with us to get better prepared for life and studies in the U.S. If the Lord wills, she will hopefully be starting college next fall. In the meantime, we'll be keeping our eyes open for opportunities for her studies closer to us here in Brazil.

However, only four days after returning to Rio, Bill was hit while driving across the Rio-Niterói bridge to help the Gideons International as a translator during their massive bible distribution project. My 2005 Honda Fit will be in the shop ‘til April 20 (seven weeks)!
Back In The Saddle (cont.)

To make matters worse, our other car – a 2001 Civic – is in the shop having the transmission rebuilt for the fourth time! As soon as it’s fixed we plan to sell it (time for a newer car; more below).

Despite these inconveniences, Bill & I have gotten “back in the saddle” by doing a one-week outreach on our main campus at UFF utilizing the “Good Person Test” (i.e., students + classes = TESTS, right?). Thanks to the participation of several Christian students, around 150 students stopped by our table to take the test, had it corrected and be told that they had failed it. When Bill asked one girl if that concerned her, she replied, “No.” When he asked why, she said her sins weren’t that bad. Then she told him she was an evangelical! Bill explained that, despite being in an evangelical church, her "not-so-serious" sins were serious to God and that she needed to examine herself to see if she had ever truly repented and believed in light of 2 Cor. 13:5.

On another day Bill noticed a student looking from a certain distance away. Bill asked him if he wanted to take the test, but he said he was afraid of how he would score! Bill told him it was better to find out how he’d score now and be able to do something about it than to discover his score on Judgment Day, to which he agreed. He took the test and, like everyone else, discovered he was not good enough to go to heaven and needed Jesus as Savior and Lord. He thanked Bill while taking a Gospel of John and a "Are You a Good Person?" comic book tract... in addition to His "Good Person Test" tract.

We are now following up on 15 students who want to either get involved with 8-32 or who want to talk more about their situation before a holy God.

Time for a Newer Car!

Yes, it’s that time again. Our poor Civic needed its transmission rebuilt just six months after the last repair! Both cars are in the shop due to the accident. HELP! Would you prayerfully consider helping with our "car upgrade" campaign? We need $10,000 to, together with the $10,000 we expect to sell the Civic for, be able to purchase a dependable used car (ideally 2006+) for our family and ministry activities? If 10 of you would help with $100, 8 with $250, 5 with $400 and 3 with $1,000… we’ll reach our goal! Thanks for prayerfully considering this!

Importance of the Cross (cont.)

dreds of students to Josh McDowell’s The Case of the Empty Tomb apologetic article the week before Easter! Of course we plan to preach the gospel to those who stop by Bill’s "Did Jesus Really Die?" banner (i.e., theories on what happened to the body). After that week we plan to start our biblical evangelism (new students) and discipleship groups (trained students).

Now for some new semester prayer needs:

1. For God to raise up 12 faithful students.
2. For meeting rooms on each campus.
3. For our ministry office to be up and running by April 30.
4. For the repair and return of one car by Easter.
5. For an administrative volunteer to help us.
6. For local fundraising to cover ministry expenses.

Now for some praises:

1. That we can still celebrate Easter openly.
2. For the Lord’s pro-tection of Bill in that 3-car pile-up on the bridge.
3. For the 150+ students who took the "Good Person Test"... that the Word will not return void.
4. For being able to dedicate ourselves completely to God’s call due to your vision, generosity and faithfulness! We are blessed by your partnership on this CROSSRoad!

May you have a truly blessed Easter!

Aïda, Bill, Amelia & Jessica Hamilton