



NEWS FROM CHAIN OF LOVE HOMES

April/May/June 2024 Newsletter

Dear Chain of Love friends,

As many of you know, in May, the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil (where Chain of Love is located), experienced the greatest natural disaster in its history.



After several days of constant rain, the water level of rivers and creeks increased dramatically, triggering severe flooding. The water took over cities, towns, and villages. Highways and bridges were destroyed, schools suspended classes, and connections between the area where COL is located and other regions were limited. Public transportation (bus lines, the metropolitan train, and the international airport) stopped operating for weeks, and the airport is still unable to receive flights.

The muddy water blended with sewage and overcame reservoirs and pumping stations, leaving cities and towns without drinkable water. Three of our off-campus homes spent days without piped water. Thousands of people lost their homes, pets, friends, and/or family members. In the first days of the flooding, hundreds of people were stranded on the roof of their houses, waiting desperately for help, which came thanks to volunteers, the public, and organizations. Little was done by the government.



Thousands of people were moved to temporary improvised shelters in churches, schools, clubs, and gyms. During this time, many of them had their homes looted by criminals. Businesses were shut down permanently, and, consequently, many people lost their jobs. Chain of Love, for some weeks, was home to former staff members who had lost their homes. We praise the Lord for being able to be there for them in their time of need.

We would like to thank the NAB and the countless people and churches that sent money to Lyndell Campbell Réquia and the Jones family (NAB missionaries in Brazil) to funnel to churches to use for relief efforts. By helping them, they also helped our community; hundreds of families were assisted, and God was glorified.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETING

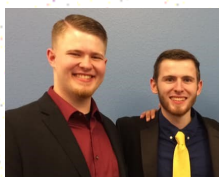
In April, we held our annual international board meeting. It was a wonderful time to evaluate what COL did the previous year and introduce our plans for 2024. As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, at the meeting, two gentlemen who were raised at COL officially became part of COL's Board of Directors! Cristiano Lessa is the new treasurer, and Leonardo Geraldo is the new vice treasurer. We are very proud of them and thank the Lord for their lives.



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TEAMS

In April, we received a team from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The team was comprised of Rick and Jean Dunbar (COL missionaries for Canada and members of Steele Heights Baptist Church) and Pastor Darrell and Wilma Dalby (from Terwillegar Community Church). Among other things, they came to help strengthen our spiritual base.



Weeks later, brothers John Paul and Joseph Allen, from Eastern Texas, came to COL to serve as well. It was a massive challenge for them since they came when the floods started. Besides helping strengthen our spiritual base, they also made a video explaining the consequences of the flood to Southern Brazil and, of course, to Chain of Love.

In June, a team from Hillside Baptist Church in Dickinson came as a “relief team” to help repair the homes of the people connected to COL (housemothers, for example). They also spent time with our children and houseparents. The team was joined by Aaron and Lindsey Barger from Texas.



These two last teams had to use other airports since the international airport is not yet operating.

If you are interested in serving at COL, we would be so excited to welcome you! Please contact us at robbynhanstad@gmail.com if you live in the US or chainoflove.canada@gmail.com if you live in Canada. No visas are required until April 2025.

CHANGES IN OUR STAFF

During this time, there were some changes in our staff. Houseparents Dirci and Valdeci left the Transition House (for young adults), and Enaldir and Nair, who were houseparents in House 4, took it over. In House 4, they were replaced by Antonio and Dione. Marco and Fabi are back at COL to look after House 7, replacing Leandro and Amanda. Unfortunately, Armando and Ironita, who recently came to serve at COL in Off-Campus Home 4, had to leave due to Armando’s health condition, which resulted in one of his legs being amputated. **Please pray for him and his wife in this difficult moment of their lives.** They were replaced by Anderson and Clenice, who are back at COL too.



Dione and Antonio



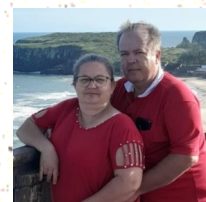
Nair and Enaldir



Marco and Fabi



Anderson and Clenice



Ironita and Armando

TRIENNIAL

Our Executive Director, Telmo Camargo, and his son Wesley Camargo will be in Minnesota in July for the NAB Triennial Conference in St. Paul (July 11-14). If you attend the conference, you are welcome to visit our booth! It would be a pleasure to meet you there



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OUR VAN

Some people have asked us how much money we need to buy a new van. We don't have an answer since the current van hasn't been sold yet. It was generously purchased in 2017 with funds from a woman's estate, but is now requiring significant money for maintenance and repairs. While it is back from the shop and is currently being used, keeping it means spending a lot of money on repairs and an insurance plan that doesn't cover many things (the older the vehicle, the more expensive the insurance plan).

This van has been showing signs of wear and tear for a long time. Last year, for example, when we were driving a team from Oklahoma on a country road, the van broke down; the team was rescued by a bus transporting construction workers. Please see the photos on the right. Because of all these things, we need to buy a new van to drive our children to school (there is no school bus system here like in North America), medical appointments, Bible camps, judicial hearings, etc. Any donation amount would make a difference and be very appreciated.



OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the people who experienced immense losses because of the floods
- For more conversions to Jesus Christ at Chain of Love
- For our houseparents (especially the new ones)
- For us to be able to purchase a new van to safely drive our children

Thank you so much for being part of this special ministry!

Jaques C. Ribeiro



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