

Calvary Church senior adult connect

MAY 2024

SPOTLIGHT LEE & REGINA BLOCH

Lee and Regina Bloch are Calvary Church Global Impact Partners serving in least-reached Southern Brazil. Regina is a native Brazilian born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil.

Her husband, Lee, hails from Chicago, IL. They base their ministry across the three last states of Brazil from the city of Curitiba in Parana, Brazil.



Regina completed high school in the city of Campinas, Brazil. She went abroad as an au pair, living with her sister in France. Regina returned to Brazil to study law while working full-time. She graduated from law school and started earning her seminary degree in her final year. Regina began teaching law while answering her call to ministry.

Lee is a Messianic Jew on his father's side. He completed his schooling in the state of Maine. After graduating, he became interested in the creative arts and began working in the entertainment industry. He served with the Illumination Engineering Society of North America as Chair of the Theatre Television and Film committee for five consecutive years. After receiving his calling to ministry, Lee earned his Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Seminary.

HOW THEY MET

Regina was volunteering with a church plant in a poor community on the outskirts of her home city of Campinas. She helped lead the children's ministry under the direction of the pastor. The church plant needed to develop its evangelistic ministry but needed ideas and direction. Knowing Regina spoke English fluently, the pastor asked Regina to go online and see if she could gather information. The first site the Lord led her to was Lee's evangelistic website (E610.com) Ephesians 6:10. They married two years later and began ministry together in Brazil by God's grace and mercy.

WHAT THEY DO

Lee provides leadership and mentoring to church planters to see new churches planted where there are few today. Regina leads the "Women of the Word" online ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SENIOR ADULT LUNCH

Date: Thursday, May 9

Time: 12-2pm

Featuring Beth Dutton

SENIOR ADULT GET TOGETHER

Date: Thursday, June 13

Time: 1-3pm

Featuring Ben & Kaaren Tyvoll

NO SENIOR ADULT LUNCH OR GET TOGETHER IN JULY

calvarychurch.us/connect/events

LIFE GROUP TEACHERS / May

AMBASSADORS

May 5-12 Introduction to the Prophets (Dr. Juan Hernandez)

May 19 Class conclusion

KINGDOM BUILDERS

May 5 Prophets & False Prophets (John Carlson)

May 12 No Class

May 19 Faith Stories by class members

EQUIPPERS

May 5-19 Examining the Challenge of Finishing Strong in the Retirement Years (Darrell Benhardus)

calvarychurch.us/connect/groups

FROM PASTOR RALPH

Most of you know that my wife Lyn had major back surgery on April 1. The procedure took nearly 11 hours and she had 4 steel rods and 18 screws inserted in her back to straighten her spine. She spent nine days at Fairview University Medical Center. She transferred to Langton Shores Senior Living on April 10 for physical and occupational therapy to prepare her for going home on April 20.

On April 11, Lyn felt overwhelmed by a sense of sadness. She was discouraged that she was not getting better, stronger, and more self-sufficient. We spent time talking, praying, and weeping together. Part of her sadness was knowing that many of you were praying for her and she felt she was letting people down by not getting better.

At that point, I remembered that she had received six cards from Calvary folks that I hadn't given to her. I opened the cards and began reading them to her. They were filled with prayers, scripture, and messages of love and encouragement. We both started crying as I read the messages that were written to the two of us. We both thanked and praised the Lord for His timely reminder that we are never alone and we started counting our many blessings.

After we finished praying, Lyn said, "When I get home, I want to buy 100 cards to send to people I know who need to be lifted up and encouraged like we have been." The messages in those cards were a gift from the Lord when we both needed it.

On April 19, we decided that we needed to call the surgeon's office because Lyn seemed to be getting weaker and her pain level was increasing. We also discovered there was leakage from her wound and she had a fever. Her surgeon was not able to see her on the weekend so we scheduled an appointment for 8am on April 23. That morning, we learned that Lyn had a serious infection in her wound.

Amazingly they had a room open at the hospital that morning on the same floor she was on before. They were able to secure an operating room that afternoon to do a "washout" of her wound. The nurse said it was incredible that a room was available and that they could find an open operating room that quickly.

Our God cares! Our God provides! Our God is always good, generous, loving, and merciful. Never forget who's in control and pass it on to others.

RALPH GUSTAFSON
Senior Adults Pastor
ralph.gustafson@calvarychurch.us
Cell Phone 651.308.9053

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Beginning with just a few women, today, the ministry reaches hundreds of women in Brazil and several countries every week. Within the church plants they help start, they work with after-school programs to send the Gospel into homes through children.

CHRISTMAS IN BRAZIL

In Brazil, Christmas Eve is the main event of the holiday season. The huge Christmas meal and gift exchange happens on Christmas Eve. Many Brazilian families are large, and there's always a "Secret Santa" game where names are drawn in advance for presents. Spending time outside in the summer, they gather around their tables to eat turkey or ham with beans and rice, collard greens, and fruit like pineapple or oranges. Rabanada, their version of French Toast with more sugar and cinnamon, is a favorite dessert along with Panettone, an Italian bread filled with dried fruit.

LIFE VERSE

My life verse (Lee) is Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

SHORT-TERM TRIP

Calvary is sending a 13-member team to come alongside Lee and Regina this July. The team will serve together with the local church in community outreach through their medical team, prayer team, and speaking team sharing the Gospel in public school presentations. Please pray for the team as they prepare to go and for Lee and Regina as they make final arrangements for the team and in their everyday ministry in Brazil.

GONE HOME

Heaven welcomed home one of our Senior Adults.

CARMEN DAVIS — April 6, 2024