

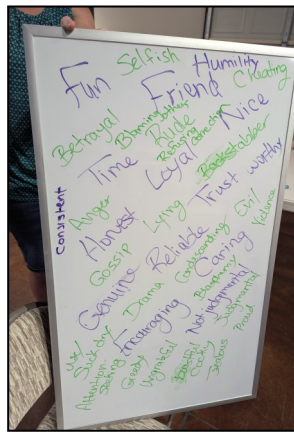
June 2025

Garden Gleamings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

Youth Group Fun Night

Sunday evening, June 8th, 18 youth and their sponsors met at the Hesston Fairway Event Center to begin getting to know each other. Garden Community youth and youth from Harvest Church introduced themselves, shared a meal, played games, and shot water balloons out of slingshots. To end the evening we spent some time brainstorming group character traits. We are looking forward to a couple more fun events together this summer!

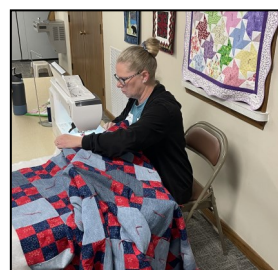




Thank you to everyone who came out on May 30th for our women's quilting bee! Just over 20 ladies and eleven kids came to tie quilts in the basement of the church fellowship hall. We began at 10am and the final few wrapped up just before 4pm. It was a great time of fellowship as we worked together to tie nine quilts that will be donated to Camp David.

Camp David, located on the east side of Hesston, runs Christian summer camps for children of prisoners and foster kids. These quilts will be on their beds at camp and then will be given to the children to take home with them when camp is over. It is a wonderful image of Christ's love and warmth they experience through the camp's ministry in a tangible form they can take back with them. A huge thank you to Denise Goossen, Vonnie Fast, Darla McCloud, Carmen Selzer, and Florene Goering for constructing the beautiful quilt tops and donating them to this cause!

For the event, the fellowship hall was decorated with beautiful wall quilts displayed on the walls and on the tables around the room that were made by ladies from our church. We enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch of yummy salads and sandwiches. And the chocolate fondue fountain for dessert was a highlight, especially for the kids!





How thankful I am that I can read!! So much in our daily lives depends on reading. Years ago I got to know a teenager in Brazil who could not read. For several months I tried all kinds of methods to help her to learn her alphabet and simple words, but it just did not click. So we gave up. She was a happy person, she loved Jesus and didn't seem bothered not being able to read, I was the one that was bothered, just thinking of all she was missing.

There is so much available in English compared to other languages in the other places we've lived. My "Books to Read" list keeps growing longer. Our church library has a great variety. The biggest section is **Fiction**, if you are looking for something easy to jump into that can take you to different countries, cultures and eras in history. Recently added are 2 books by Jody Hedlund, [Newton and Polly](#) - If you always wondered about the life and family of John Newton who ran slaves ships and then came to the Lord and wrote Amazing Grace, this is the book. The other is [Luther and Katharina](#) telling the story of Martin Luther and the former nun he married.

In the **Christian Living** section, [Kitchen Table Counseling](#), is a great book encouraging us to work through our own issues so that we can help those around us draw closer to Jesus.

Biographies, especially of believers, can be such a blessing as we see how God works in a person's life. [Unbroken](#), by Laura Hillenbrand is such a book. Louis Zamperini flew a bomber in WWII, he crashed into the ocean, was lost at sea for weeks only to be rescued to spend horrendous years in Japanese prisons. He went through that and so much more without knowing Jesus! Finally after physical freedom he did find freedom in Christ also. It's a hard-to-put-down story!

You'll find these books on the shelf marked "New Books" for a couple months and then they will be integrated into their respective sections.

~Denise Goossen

Summer Book Bingo!

Let's play reading bingo! The teen/tween and children's libraries are joining together for the month of July to encourage more reading during summer break! The kickoff will be on Sunday, June 29th, in the foyer. There will be fun prizes for participating and we will be sharing more information as we get closer to the kickoff! If you have any questions, please see Carla Murphy or Katie Hanzlicek. Happy reading!

Vonnie's Views

Recently, Gerhard and I visited a Vitreo-Retinal specialist to check out some concerning symptoms he was experiencing. Thankfully, what could have indicated a retinal detachment turned out to be an age-related condition that only requires monitoring. The retina was intact. Still, the experience gave me much to reflect on—especially in a spiritual sense.

We see *out* of our eyes, not *into* them. Eyes are amazing organs, helping us perceive beauty, depth, and color. But when those flashing lights and large floaters appeared, although Gerhard could see them, we couldn't examine the eye ourselves to understand what was going on. A glance in the mirror showed a normal external eye, but beneath the surface, something serious could have been developing.

So we sought help—first from our eye doctor, then from a specialist with the tools and the expertise to investigate more deeply. To examine the retina, his pupils were dilated. Scans were taken. The doctor used magnification and light to look closely at what we couldn't see on our own. Only then could a true diagnosis be made.

This reminds me of the heart—not the organ that pumps blood, but the core of who we are: the seat of our beliefs, choices, and motivations. Like our eyes, we can't really look *into* our hearts. We may observe our own actions or those of others, but understanding the deeper reasons behind them is often beyond us.

Even our self-evaluations are limited. We might wonder, *Why did I react that way? Why do I keep making that choice?* The real answers lie deep within. Just as we needed a specialist to examine the retina, we need a spiritual Specialist to examine our hearts.

Scripture speaks directly to this. Jeremiah 17:9–10 tells us:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 'I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.'"

The Holy Spirit doesn't just diagnose—He heals.

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. (Joel 2:12–13)

Just as regular eye exams are vital, so are regular heart check-ups. Proverbs 4:23 urges us: *"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."*

The Spirit's treatment is always restorative:



"And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them... that they may walk in my statutes... and they shall be my people, and I will be their God." (Ezekiel 11:19–20)

Is it time for you to open your heart to an exam by the Holy Spirit? He's ready—and His Word is a great place to begin.

July

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

**Memory Verse: Psalm 95:6—O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Elohim - The Almighty God. There is none like Him.	2 Praise God we are completely dependent on Him. Don't fight it.	3 Pray for CEF to bring forth fruit, more fruit, much fruit for the Lord.	4 Jehovah Jireh - The Lord who provides: before I even know I have a need.	5 Pray those at the Hope Shelter find peace & deliverance in Christ.
6 Jehovah Rapha - My healer. Healer of physical hurts, healer of heart hurts & mind hurts.	7 Pray for our elders to have God's wisdom & courage.	8 Pray God would help you realize victory over sin.	9 Pray we shine the light of Christ to those we encounter today.	10 El Roi - The God who sees me. He knows where I am, my circumstances. He cares.	11 Pray those nearing the end of life here, finish well.	12 El Elyon - The God Most High. Nothing greater, nothing before, no other like Him.
13 Pray parents know how to train, instruct & discipline their kids.	14 El Shaddai - The All-sufficient One. There is nothing He is not enough for.	15 Pray for Goossens in Brazil - contacts, balance, wisdom, rest.	16 The Comforter. Pray He fills the empty places in your life with Himself.	17 Immanuel - God with us. God in us. Give Him free rein.	18 El Olam - From everlasting to everlasting, He is God. He alone.	19 Pray we have boldness to share the gospel.
20 Pray for discernment to recognize the lies of the world.	21 Pray Christian military & first responders know the peace & strength of Christ.	22 My Sovereign King - and I'm His child. Loved, cherished, protected.	23 Pray for young believers in Brazil to grow in love & knowledge of Jesus Christ.	24 Jehovah Sabaoth - The Lord of the hosts and armies of heaven!	25 My refuge, my shelter, my rock, my God.	26 Pray God protects our minds from deception, our hearts from disobedience.
27 Jehovah Shalom - The God of peace and wholeness. Peace with Him, peace within.	28 Ask God to purify our hearts so we can be used by Him to reach others.	29 The Messiah - the Anointed One. Very God Himself come to save us.	30 The Risen Lord. Because He lives, I have the assurance of life.	31 Pray for hearts sensitive to leading of Holy Spirit.		

GUARACIABA NEWS

| James and Rosângela Goossen |

Steps of growth

We are in the process of formalizing some of the ministries within the Guaciaba church. So for example the worship team will be an official "ministry" with a leader and established parameters for engament of new members. Likewise we will be organizing the youth work, Bible club, men's and women's work, the greeters and the food distribution. All this ministries already function in a very organic way but the time has come for a little more oversight and accountability.

Bible Club

On May 31 we are having a special training for club leaders. It is especially rewarding to see that the lions portion of club leaders being trained are clubbers that have gone thru the Bible club themselves! They are very enthused about reaching the next generation of kids. They are mostly high schoolers reaching the lower grades.



CONSTRUCTION

The levels of exitment are pretty high as we get together on Saturdays to pour the concrete footings for our church building. As many men that can come do so, and some who can't come pay for a worker to go in their place. The challenge is big because we are a group of about 50 trying to construct a building for 200. The Saturday of these pictures we poured 17 of the 32 footings, that was 124 mixers full of concrete. Everyone slept good that night! THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYER!



Volume 32.1

June 2025



CHRISTIAN RADIO IN NOVA RUSSAS, BRAZIL

GoosseNews

Elwyn & Linda Goossen

GREAT NEWS!

In our last newsletter, we mentioned repairing and painting our two towers—the main broadcasting tower on Cedar Mountain and the one in town we use with our backup transmitter.

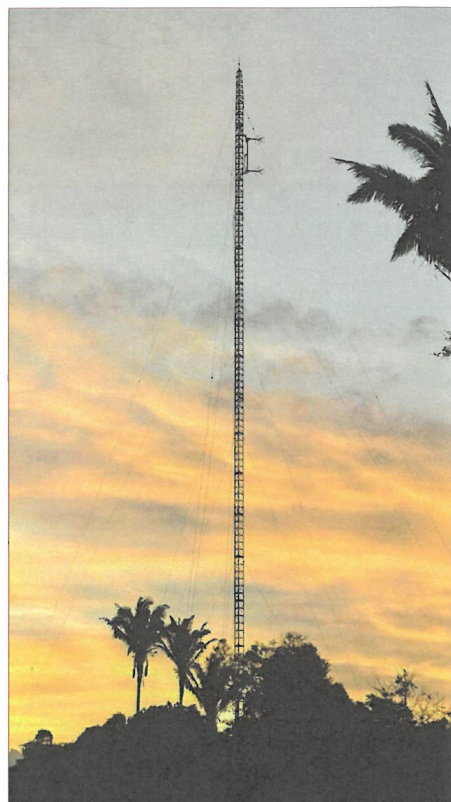
Let us introduce you to yet another tower—one that we are in the process of buying! More importantly, we are buying the license for a radio station which accompanies this tower!

This new radio station is located in rural Ibiapina, about 75 miles from Harvest Radio, and in a strategic location to expand our broadcast area into a totally different audience. We plan to re-transmit Harvest Radio's 24 hour Christian programming, initially at low power (phase 1). Even so, we will be planting seeds of the Gospel to assist Avant and national missionaries already working in that area.

Praise the Lord, He has provided, through the generous gifts of His people, enough money to purchase the license (complete with tower and antenna). We have already begun purchasing other equipment and as soon as we get the paperwork signed, we'll start working on getting it on the air.

As God provides funds, we plan to upgrade the license to a higher power (phase 2), which will further increase our listening audience—we estimate it will more than double our current audience.

If you would like to join with us financially, you can give online or using the mailing address below for Avant. Designate your gift for "Brazil: Expanding the Harvest. Project #72027".



PRAISE & PRAYER

- Update on our family—Praise the Lord our daughter-in-law, Rafaelly was granted her green card visa and she and Andrew plan to move to the US in August.
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to purchase this new radio station!
- Praise for the generosity of God's people in providing funding.
- Pray for Mr. Gerson, the former owner, that we could share God's love with him through this purchase process.
- Pray for complete funding.
- Pray for all the paperwork to be signed so that we can get it on the air.

Avant Ministries
10000 N Oak Tfwy
Kansas City, MO 64155
816.734.8500
www.AvantMinistries.org

Canada
2121 Henderson Highway
Winnipeg, MB R2G 1P8
204.338.7831

Personal
Caixa Postal 01
Nova Russas, Ceara, Brazil 62200-000
elwyngoossen@avmi.org
f Elwyn & Linda in Brazil
+558899877387
620-951-3046