

Dear Friends at Church of the Open Door:

We haven't run a relay race, but we've watched enough to know that handing over the baton is vitally important. Training leaders for church multiplication, in the most gospel-resistant state, is what God called us to do, when he brought us back to Brazil 16 years ago.

With only a year-and-a-half to go before we are to move back to the U.S., passing the baton to other trainers comes into focus as our main concern. One way to do this is by team-teaching. Kathy (photo) is team-teaching her classes in the four-year advanced leadership course. In preparing 16 people from our church to be cell-group leaders, Lowell had an elder lead the first half of each training session. As he teaches Systematic Theology to young leaders from three cities, our local pastor also takes the course, so that he will be able to teach it in the future.



Of the 17 people, from two churches, who have been meeting with Lowell to discuss the material that he has written or translated in the area of overall church leadership, six are already serving at the elder or deacon level. One of them can facilitate this course for future groups.

In Porto Alegre, our state capital, the church that God used us to start has recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lowell preaches there once a month, serves as mentor to the elders, and will team-teach a training course with a young leader who will then take over this responsibility.

The sixth annual TOPIC (Trainers of Pastors International Coalition) Consultation will be held Aug. 25-29 in Anápolis, state of Goiás. Our desire is that after Lowell teaches a module on principles of life-application education, the 40 participants will take up this baton in their areas of training pastoral leaders. In mid-November Lowell is to teach another "principles" module to a group of key pastors in Rio de Janeiro.

Personal items: In March we visited Chile, and Lowell preached in Spanish for the first time ever. On August 18 we will celebrate 55 years of marriage, during a visit to former trainees of ours in Florianópolis, state of Santa Catarina. What a blessing to have been given the marvelous privilege of serving side-by-side all these years!

Kathy is to travel to the U.S. in late October, hoping to be present at the birth of our tenth grandchild, in Washington, Georgia. After Lowell's teaching in Rio, he will also fly to the U.S. for our Home Assignment through mid-January.

Then for our final year, 2009, working with our field director, Mickey Counter, and Brazilian pastors to develop a training track for preparing church planters within the life of groups of local churches. After the end of 2009, the plan is that we would move to the U.S. for a six-month transition into "retired" status – but with annual visits to Brazil, as the Lord provides, for ministry.

We thank you for the strong and steady help you have been giving us! We feel sure that our heavenly Father is pleased with you!