

## Brazil Mission Report – November 2005

### **Severely tested: Separated by about 5,000 miles and LaVonne suffers a heart attack!**

We were invited to be part of a Fire Sowers Ministries Conference, organised by Pastors Dario & Douglas Luiz. They organise such conferences several times a year, and they invite speakers from different countries to preach and minister in Brazil, never two from the same country. They would be very busy travelling and speaking; they could expect to make at least one internal flight and to visit up to 18 churches and maybe three states.

Things did not go according to their plans but God's, whose hand, of course, was on every detail.

LaVonne was refused entry into Brazil without a visa, a requirement for Americans that embarrassingly escaped both them and the organisers. As a British citizen, Eric did not need a visa, but travelling on an American passport, LaVonne did; and it never occurred to them that British and American citizens would be treated differently.

The Brazilian officials absolutely insisted that LaVonne had to go back – she would not be given a visa on Brazilian soil.

We had already agreed that in situations like this, the other would go on – our priority is to serve God and to save souls.

We had chosen to fly via Washington DC, instead of Madrid or Barcelona, and this choice proved to be of God. Instead of a return flight to London via Spain, LaVonne could have a return ticket to Columbus, Ohio from Washington DC, and spend the time with her family. It meant shorter flying hours.

Even so, she faced the ordeal of an all-day wait in the airport before her flight to DC, and another long trip in the air. Having just landed, and already very tired, this prospect was horrendous.

But God foreknew. We had packed only summer clothing for Brazil; but LaVonne had bought a lovely thick winter coat when last in the US, and she had felt to leave it in Columbus.



It was also God that we both reached Brazilian soil, as the airline should have turned LaVonne back on checking her passport both in London and in Washington; but they did not, and it enabled a divine appointment on the plane from Washington to Sao Paulo.

We shared a middle row of three seats with a lady (a) who had worked in the White House for Presidents Reagan and George Bush (Snr), her office just two doors away from the President's, (b) who had been married to two Congressmen, (c) who worked for years in the Department of Justice, (d) who was a very good friend of the Senate Chaplain (whom we met in 2003), (e) who was attached to the Naval chaplaincy at Arlington Cemetery, and (f) who, as an usher, was used to showing the President to his seat in the Episcopal Church across from the White House.

We had so looked forward to going on this our first mission together. So parting was of course very difficult.

When praying for the trip, LaVonne never saw herself in Brazil with Eric, and wondered about it.

God also told her that it was Eric who was to preach. Some friends felt this trip was going to be more for Eric, than for LaVonne.

Nevertheless, God did a work in each of us, and we both participated in the mission, although thousands of miles apart.

In church, the Sunday before their flight, LaVonne spoke a word of prophecy that included the words: "Heed My call; heed My call; heed My call!" We remembered that, and took it as confirmation for Eric to go on.

We felt it was a test of our loyalty to God above our loyalty to each other.

We were to face another such test later in the mission, a far tougher one.

### **Santa Barbara d'Oeste, Friday 18th**

Eric was met at the airport by Pastor Levi da Silva (Assembly of God) and driven to Santa Barbara d'Oeste, about a two-hour drive. Eric had very little to do that evening except present diplomas to graduates of their Bible College, a very grand affair with the graduates and the College dignitaries wearing robes. There are two AOG churches in the city, and the service took place at the one pastored by Pastor Eliseo, who oversees the region.

Eric was returned to his hotel, where his thoughts and prayers were for LaVonne, still waiting at the airport for her flight to Washington DC at 25 after midnight.

### **Santa Barbara d'Oeste, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

At 3.30 pm Eric telephoned LaVonne. She was now with her family in Columbus, and prayers had been answered, inasmuch as LaVonne had slept on both flights and she did not remember the planes taking off. She sounded in such good spirits that Eric was lifted. She confirmed the choice of message for later. "The Spirit's all over me!" she said. The Spirit had been all over Eric, as he had sought God in the morning for what to preach!

Eric preached in the afternoon at Pr Eliseo's church to a regional assembly of AOG pastors, elders and deacons. He preached on "Purge Out the Old Leaven."

"Congratulations! It was a beautiful message," his interpreter said. Pr Eliseo took the message and re-emphasised it to his leaders. He licked and lifted his thumb to mimic tasting the mixture to see if the mix is right!

He gave a thumbs-up in a photo with Eric, and asked if Eric would be willing to preach again in a family service that followed immediately afterwards. He wanted a message centred around the Lord's Table.

Eric agreed, and preached on "Covenant." Eric experienced a powerful anointing and the congregation applauded. The communion had an extra special dimension; and afterwards the Pastors and elders were hugging Eric tremendously.

One man described the message by describing a large arc above his head with his arm; and he absolutely insisted the interpreter ask Eric something – He wanted to market Eric's messages throughout Brazil!

### **Santa Barbara d'Oeste, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Eric preached in a youth service in the evening across the town at Pr Levi's church. They had a visiting worship band of young evangelists, and Eric found himself dancing on the platform, which delighted the young people. Eric then preached on the widow of Zarephath. The people responded to the message and came forward for ministry.

One man who was totally deaf retreated backwards as Eric gently blew on him. Another woman started bubbling with joy and laughter. One lady with a heart problem felt great



after Eric prayed for her. His interpreter gave him a thumbs-up. Another lady wanted prayer for breast cancer. Others wanted prayer for business and family problems.

Afterwards, Pastor Levi and Pastor Manole Ferreira expressed their deep appreciation of Eric's messages and wanted Eric to come again in 2006 with LaVonne. They wanted Eric to preach and minister, and also to lecture in their Bible College.

When Eric called LaVonne, she said she had been up at 4am praying for him. She was battling a sore throat and a cold.

### **San Jose dos Campos, Monday 21st**

At 1.10pm Eric was collected by Pastors Laercio Gomes and Max Dowel (AOG) and they drove a couple of hours to San Jose dos Campos.

Max told Eric he would have to finish at 9.30pm because of neighbours' complaints about noise from the church. Eric preached 'Knowing Jesus'. One soul was saved and was baptised in the Holy Spirit. Many came forward for ministry and were backing up the aisles. Eric prayed for them corporately, and all confessed that they had received something from God, giving God a tremendous clap offering.

It was by now 9.30pm, supposedly time to stop, but the place was electric. Max himself took the microphone and preached loudly in Portuguese till 9.50pm, and then called the worship band on again! The music was loud and so good that Eric began to dance and the people loved that!

Prs Laercio & Max were so deeply appreciative of Eric and said so publicly. There were smiling faces everywhere. Many kind words were spoken to Eric in Portuguese. The band gave Eric their worship cd.

LaVonne said she had been up again at 4am praying for Eric, and all day too! But her cold was getting worse.

### **San Jose dos Campos, Tuesday 22nd**

The church was packed tonight. Eric preached on "River of Fire." As Pr Max sat down, having interpreted the message, he said emphatically: "That was a very, very good message!"



In the Spirit, Eric had seen a mantle come down over the people, and he also saw a river running in front of the platform and down the aisles. He invited the people into the river. They pressed forward so much that they had to come up the steps of the platform. Another soul was saved.

Pastor Laercio said; "It's been extremely nice to have you among us, and the communion we have had together in the Holy Spirit has been something special from God. You are most welcome to come again when you next visit Brazil; we will be delighted to have you here to preach."

One brother asked Eric if he would be preaching again tomorrow; and when Eric replied no, he looked so crestfallen.

Meanwhile LaVonne reported she was under continuing attack in her health and was now battling against the onset of pneumonia! But she said she was confident in Jesus and not quitting.

The devil wanted Eric distracted and he was not to be distracted – she would be all right! It was a test of their love for Jesus, and no matter what, they would put their love for Him first and complete the mission.

### **Monte Aprazivel, Wednesday Nov 23rd**

Monte Aprazivel was reached after a 6 hour drive.. to the Foursquare Gospel Church (Pastor Antonio D. Parecido da Fonseca).

Pr Antonio and the interpreter primed Eric about this town. Monte Aprazivel means "Mount Pleasant" but in fact is the opposite - it is, they said, "the headquarters of black magic," surrounded by Satan worship, idol worship, spiritism, black magic arts, and Macumba (Brazilian witchcraft). They described it as a very dark place and a place of real oppression for preachers.

So welcome! Eric preached again on 'Knowing Jesus,' and the Spirit fell on the meeting.

One person fell out in the Spirit with no one touching her; others were shaking and weeping; others fell with just Eric touching their hands, nothing spoken.

One woman lay on her back on the floor "trilling" in the way of native African women; and when she went home, she left with a beautiful smile on her face. One woman needed deliverance and was set free.



A recent convert from Satanism had body pains that disappeared. The place was simply awash with Holy Spirit activity and people on the floor found it so very difficult to get up. Eric was asked to pray on a prayer cloth for a woman with cancer.

An elderly lady, a Satan worshipper for 35 years, and who had been blind for 5 years, had her sight restored to her.

Her daughter was delivered from an evil spirit – Eric could not understand what she was saying in Portuguese, so he said, “Whatever she’s asking You for, Lord, in Jesus’ Name, I say YES!” And with that, she simply flew backwards about 15 feet!

Then Eric prayed for her father who was healed in his knees. Theirs was one happy family!

Eric prayed for the deacons and anointed them with oil on their heads, hands and feet. He did the same for the worship team. He also prayed for Pr Antonio.

LaVonne said she had been led to a briefcase in which she had found a prayer against all kinds of witchcraft, and she had been praying that for Eric and the meeting all day!

#### **Monte Aprazivel, Thursday Nov 24th**

For this, their opening night of the Fire Sowers Conference, they had drama, smoke, and real fire!

Like fire-eaters they were filling their mouths with kerosene and blowing fire up into the air, so high that in fact banners hung from the rafters were in danger of catching alight. It was some spectacle!

The elderly lady whose sight had been restored last night, said she had been sewing today! And now she wanted a Bible to read! She and her family treated Eric as a son, with continuous hugs and kisses.

Eric preached on ‘the River of Fire’ and the fire of the Holy Spirit fell on the meeting just as the night before. People were littering the floor just through Eric taking their hands or lightly blowing on them, and they stayed down. Those who had received from God then ministered to others at Eric’s invitation.

The visiting pastors locked arms in a circle and had their own Holy Spirit party!



Body ministry was going on everywhere. Parents brought their children to be blessed and Eric was asked to pray on a child's garment. He was also asked to pray on photos and passports of loved ones. The band started to play an upbeat song, and no one wanted to leave. It was just such a blessed time.

One brother rubbing his chest and shoulders said he had really been burned by fire as Eric ministered to him. Another brother testified that as he lay on the floor, he just could not move. Another brother said he was going to England "in order to come back really sharp!"

Pr Antonio closed the meeting and led a prayer: "May the fire that brother Ericky (sic) has imparted to us, go with him and be imparted wherever he goes."

### **Assis, Friday Nov 25th**

Before Eric left for Assis, Pr Antonio said through the interpreter that he had been very happy with the meetings and that all the people he had spoken to, were "marvellized"! (sic) He also said that the visiting pastors had found a freedom to celebrate Jesus that they were not enjoying in their own churches, and so they were coming again tonight, when Dario Luiz would be preaching. Dario seemed to be following Eric.

Assis was reached after a 3 hour drive to The Light of Life Community Church (Pastor Roberto Issa). God insisted wherever Eric ministered for one night only, the message he must preach was on really knowing Jesus. Yet it was different and fresh every time.

Again the fire fell on the people and they met with God. Eric went up and down the line taking people's hands or lightly blowing on them and they were falling in the Spirit, including Pr Roberto and the interpreter. Only half a dozen or so managed to stay on their feet. The catchers found it difficult to keep up, and they were stacking the front rows of chairs to make room for people

The interpreter was a young lawyer, and his whole family were lawyers. Eric prayed with his father and uncle. The Spirit did a deep work in his father.

One young man asked for Eric's anointing, and when asked, said he was prepared to pay the price for the anointing. Eric prayed for him and he fell.

One young man had a heart problem and his mother had cancer and lung problems. After ministry he said his heart was now back in rhythm, and we believe for a good report concerning his mother.



One lady had a painful foot that was healed.

Another lady just came up to Eric and loved on him – hugging him and not letting go.

Every night after the meetings Eric was telephoning LaVonne with a report of the meeting, and she was praying for Eric and for the meetings constantly. She felt she was regaining her health.

### **Novo Horizonte, Saturday Nov 26<sup>th</sup>**

It was a three and a half hour drive to Novo Horizonte, to the AOG Church (Pastor Nelson Aparecido Rosa).

This was a church that needed a touch. But again God was faithful and the Holy Spirit came on the church and the church broke free! The people really responded to the “Know Jesus” message.

Five souls were saved and so many came forward for ministry that the area in front of the platform was jammed and they were queuing in the aisles. There was no room for them to fall, but fall they did.

The ministry took “forever” for this was a large church. It was hard for Eric to get through the people to minister and the catchers also found it difficult. They wanted to pull people up off the floor too quickly. One woman was lifted up still very groggy and was helped to a chair, her head in her hands.

One couple stood arm in arm and fell together. A lady who had fallen down some stairs at home, was healed of head-pains. A lady with a throat problem was healed. A lady with shoulder and feet problems was healed.

Parents brought their children to be blessed.

When finally the ministry was over, Eric led the church in a clap-offering, and then called for a celebration song. Eric began to dance and got others to dance. The interpreter was jumping up and down on the platform. The youth seemed to be on fire! Eric finished by “high-fiving” his interpreter, the Pastor and the co-Pastors!

Pr Nelson described this night as “a breakthrough in the history of this church.” He so appreciated Eric’s preaching and ministry.



Dario would be preaching tomorrow and he was going to ask Dario for Eric & LaVonne next year, but didn't know if he could make such special requests.

The interpreter said, "The whole church has been changed forever!"

At the meal after the meeting, one young man was so fired up, he was running all through the building to release his energy. And a woman attending the meal, who was complaining of back and leg problems, was healed when Eric prayed for her.

### **Penapolis, Sunday Nov 27<sup>th</sup>**

It was an hour and a half drive to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Penapolis.

It was the last night of their Fire Sowers Conference. Pastor Oscar and his wife Kayla had complained about the quality of their interpreter. So, as Dario Luiz was preaching in Novo Horizonte, the interpreter from that city was released to drive to Penapolis to translate for Eric. It was a great reunion!

Of course, God was faithful yet again to the "Know Jesus" message, which again He insisted on Eric preaching. Nearly everyone was slain in the Spirit, including little children, and they stayed down for ages. Some people had the most amazing contentment on their faces.

One man lost the coordination of his legs on the floor due to demonic manifestation in him, and he was delivered. A woman was wailing.

Even the serving ladies wanted their turn to be prayed for. Eric was asked to pray over photographs of friends and relatives. One man asked Eric if he had written any books, because he wanted one!

Pr Oscar and his wife were more than happy with the evening, saying it more than made up for what had been "the huge letdown" of previous nights.

### **Andradina, Monday Nov 28<sup>th</sup>**

It was a one and a half hour drive to Sion Mountain Baptist Church, Andradina (Pastor Paulo Ferreira).

Before the meeting, Eric was taken to visit a former Mayor of the city, who was suffering from cancer. Eric was privileged to lead him to Jesus and to pray for his healing. He gripped Eric's hands good and tight.



Again, God required the “Know Jesus” message, and again God was faithful to visit with His people.

As for the other nights, people crowded forward for ministry and there was no space to fall, but fall they did, nearly all of them. Eric went up and down an endless line. Pr Paulo remarked how the people stayed and waited patiently for ministry.

People were meeting with God themselves, as Eric encouraged them to. There were tears and loud cries.

As in some other places, the catchers were struggling to make it through the press of people and keep up. For some, Eric would simply take their hands and they’d fall. For some he would find himself just quietly worshipping God in song as he touched them, and they’d fall. One lady brushed past Eric, in order she said, to get some of his anointing.

Another lady shook like a leaf as Eric approached, and was slain in the Spirit. Through the interpreter afterwards she told Eric: “Pure anointing! Pure anointing!”

She said that she had been a spiritist before getting saved, but occasionally she still suffered from anxiety attacks including breaking out in rashes. Now she declared she was totally free!

She said she had been afraid to go near Eric, but when she saw the people being blessed, she had plucked up courage and got in the line.

Pr Paulo asked Eric to pray for his leaders and the worship team. They all fell like dominoes.

The interpreter told Eric that he had so enjoyed the message. He said other speakers had tickled their ears with what the people wanted to hear, but Eric had hit them where it hurts!

Pr Paulo wished Eric could stay for more nights and he was going to speak to Dario about him tomorrow.

### **Assis, Tuesday Nov 29<sup>th</sup>**

Due to make an internal flight from Londrinhas airport to Curitiba tomorrow, Eric wanted to speak again to Douglas about his flight tickets, which, he was always being assured,

“would be taken care of, so do not worry.” However the cell phone network, TIM Brasil, was now telling Eric that the numbers in his phone memory did not exist! This was an unwelcome frustration on top of a long and tiring drive to Assis for another night at The Light of Life Community Church.

This was his second time in Assis, and on this occasion God told Eric to preach on the “River of Fire.” The service was wonderful. The pattern of previous nights was repeated.

Eric asked if there were any who wanted to come forward and testify what God had done for them.

A lady came up and said she had a back problem that had caused her sleepless nights for years. She had resisted the Spirit when in the line – she just did not want to fall – but the Spirit had touched her legs and forced her to her knees, and there, on her knees, she had received her healing.

Another lady, healed of a longstanding knee problem, jumped up and down on the platform to demonstrate her healing, whilst clutching the microphone and repeatedly shouting hallelujahs.

She was so joyful, the Holy Spirit sovereignly touched her again and she fell flat on her back still clutching the microphone shouting hallelujahs. At the close, she gave Eric a royal hug and God-bless, as did many others.

At the meal afterwards, Eric was told by the Pastor’s wife that his flight tickets were bought and paid for and would be waiting for him at Londrinás airport. He had to be ready at 8.30am to drive the hour and a half to the airport. Then TIM Brasil allowed him a call to LaVonne. She was over the worst of her cold and delighted to hear the news of the meeting.

So, all was set for tomorrow.... or so Eric thought.

### **Curitiba, Wednesday Nov 30<sup>th</sup>**

Eric was on the road by 8.20am and reached the airport at 9.50am. His driver knew to check with the airline that all was well before he left Eric. He spoke to staff at their check in and ticket desks and gave Eric a thumbs-up. Eric had to wait till 11am for the check in to open for his flight at 12.40pm.

When that time came, they now said they had no record of Eric on the flight list! There was no ticket in his name! They would only accept an Amex card from a foreigner, and Eric did not have Amex. He did, however, have money from offerings; and it was enough to buy his way onto the flight.

He landed at Curitiba at about 1.20pm. There was no one to meet him. He waited and waited for an hour or more. He tried to phone Dario or Douglas but TIM Brasil was up to its tricks from yesterday; he could make no calls.

He asked for two public address announcements to be made, but there was no response. The lady at the information desk suggested he could make a collect call from one of the public phones and told him how. But he met with no success and in his confusion he left his cell phone there. When he realised he no longer had it, it was not to be found.

After some time, a PA announcement mentioned his name. Perhaps someone had come to meet him. Not so, but someone had kindly handed in his phone.

Finally, TIM Brasil allowed him a call to Dario. Dario said he should take a cab to the Ibis hotel near the airport, and he would get someone to meet him there. Eric waited at the Ibis until well after 4pm. No one came. He phoned Dario again who said there were people looking for him at the airport! He would phone them and tell them to come to the hotel. Finally they came, two couples.

They said he should take a room at the Ibis but he would have nothing to do until tomorrow evening. They said someone would come to take him out to dinner; but by 10pm Eric could wait no longer and dined in the hotel restaurant. It had been a long and trying day. Eric was glad it was over! But it *wasn't* over.....

### **Curitiba, Thursday Dec 1st**

As Eric slept, LaVonne was in the midst of a life-threatening drama. At 1am her time, 4am Brazilian time, she suffered a heart-attack. Her heart was beating 200 times a minute. It was in God's providence that LaVonne was in America and with a specialist heart hospital just 2 minutes away. She was rushed to hospital.

Eric received the news at 8am his time. He was given a direct-line phone number to LaVonne. However, he could not phone before 8am her time. So he had a three-hour wait before he could speak to her.

He spent those hours in prayer – binding the enemy, confessing God’s goodness and reminding Him of every word He has spoken over their marriage.

God told Eric that he was to stay and complete the mission. LaVonne was going to be OK and He wanted him to preach tonight. Eric said to God: *“Let’s rub this in the devil’s face tonight!”*

When he made his call to LaVonne, before he could say anything, she told him he had to go on with the mission. More than that, she wanted him to tell the people tonight that she was praying for them! It was confirmation. Eric called Dario and told him the situation, but he would see the mission through.

Dario praised the Lord, and said one speaker had refused two preaching engagements because the travelling was too long and the cars too small! He said he was surprised by all the great reports he was getting of Eric’s preaching and ministry, as he followed him around.

Eric told him that he and LaVonne were aiming to return together next year, and Dario said, “We need you!”

The host church was the Foursquare Gospel Church, Curitiba, Pastor Ery Reis, and the meeting was in a thousand-seater tent - their opening night of the conference.

Eric called LaVonne again just before he went to preach and she prayed for him. She reminded him she wanted him to tell the people what had happened to her, and that she was praying for them. Eric did so and they clapped and cheered!

Five souls were saved! Others packed the front for ministry. Many began falling in the Spirit, like sacks of stones.

A lady with a knee problem was slain in the Spirit and later said she had been greatly blessed and would be praying for LaVonne and Eric. All the ushers were slain in the Spirit. A couple, both deacons, were slain in the Spirit together.

Pr Ery asked Eric to pray for an Appeal Court Judge who was present in the meeting. The Judge said he was “greatly blessed and impressed by Eric’s wonderful preaching.”

**Jaguariaiva, Friday Dec 2nd**

During the night LaVonne's heart had dropped below 40 beats a minute, setting off alarms. She had been woken and told to take a walk. She faced more tests today.

Eric reassured LaVonne that God was telling him His plans for them have not altered, and she was going to be ok.

Eric was collected from the hotel by Pastor Douglas himself! Eric also got to see one or two other conference speakers whose paths were crossing at this airport hotel. Douglas was going to interpret for Eric tonight – it seemed Dario wanted his brother to witness Eric in action.

Douglas and Eric were driven by Pr Urias, an associate pastor, in a Chevrolet 4x4. They were late leaving, and unfortunately the vehicle broke down a long way from Jaguariaiva. But God sent them a truck as they thumbed a lift along the highway..

On its windscreen were written the words: "God is faithful" and inside the cab above the driver was written: "If God be for us, who can be against us."

The truck got them to Jaguariaiva with half an hour to spare. The meeting was at the AOG Church (Pastor Joao Rocha). What an extraordinary night!

Three people accepted Christ. People were manifestly meeting with God, and as Eric began to minister to individuals, they fell rapidly.

Douglas told Eric later that he looked nervously at Pr Joao, because he thought to himself: "*They just don't fall in this church!*" He was worried how Pr Joao would react; but Pr Joao was loving it!

People continued to fall. Douglas said it was "very powerful." He said he watched the stewards trying to lift people up from the floor but they couldn't get them to their feet – they were too drunk in the Spirit.

Douglas wanted Eric to preach on the radio at 10.30pm, and tried hard to get Eric out of the church but was hindered by people thanking and hugging Eric. Even in the street outside, it was difficult to get into the car.



Pr Joao said several years ago there had been a prophecy that foreigners would come and preach in his church, and he told Eric that he was the first! He wanted to hold a special lunch in Eric's honour.

At the radio station, Eric told Douglas he would preach the same message. Eric then seemed to be observing himself as he preached live on air and heard God change the message around and finish where he normally began! Eric didn't have to think of his words – they were simply in his mouth.

Douglas told Eric that any time we wish to come to Brazil, we should just let them know and they will arrange meetings for us, anywhere in Brazil, including the Amazon. They would promote big meetings in big cities, like Rio and Sao Paulo, if we so desired; but their heart is to go to the places that foreign preachers do not usually go.

This resonated with Eric's heart also – the pattern of his call to India.

### **Fazenda Rio Grande, Saturday Dec 3rd**

God was again speaking to Eric this morning of His unaltered plans – they are perfect and for our good. Amen.

Eric phoned LaVonne, who was now out of hospital and in faith for her healing but being sensible to follow doctors' instructions on medicines and diet. She was thrilled with Eric's report of last night with Douglas.

Eric attended the special lunch in his honour, where Prs Joao and Douglas continued to radiate happiness.

Then it was a three-hour drive to the New Life Christian Community Church in Fazenda Rio Grande, Pastor Marcio and wife Carla. Seven souls were won to Christ. The ministry was excellent – in keeping with previous nights – with almost the whole church slain in the Spirit, including the pastor and his wife, the interpreter, the elders and the worship team and children.

The interpreter said afterwards that God had given him a new gift as he lay on the floor, a sharper sword – he saw it in the Spirit.

Another brother said that Eric had opened a door in his heart to Jesus, and for his whole family too.

A lady just said thank-you to Eric with tears in her eyes.

### **Ponta Grossa, Sunday Dec 4th**

This was Eric's last ministry day of the conference. It was a two hour drive to the Foursquare Gospel Church, Ponta Grossa - Pastor Airton Franscisco and his wife Yvonne.

As before, the Holy Spirit came. A large number - the interpreter's estimate was ninety – responded to receive salvation. More came forward for ministry. Most, but not all, fell in the Spirit; some wobbled, or shook, or “retreated” backwards. When Eric prayed for the elders and deacons, they all fell in the Spirit, without exception.

One person was healed of head and ear pains, two were healed of kidney pains, and one of an abdominal swelling. One woman who was blind, said nothing happened after Eric prayed, but after Eric prayed for her again, he saw her following him with her eyes as he moved along the ministry line.

A woman was delivered from an evil spirit. She was shaking her head as the demon spoke and said it would not come out of her. Surprisingly, it spoke in English, not Portuguese. It had no choice but to go, and it did go.

Not all of the ministry was successful, or let's say instantly successful. A man on crutches attempted to walk without them but crumpled. Eric prayed for him again, and the man thought to try again but declined.

There was a man in a wheelchair both mentally and physically disabled. His legs, which were twisted, instantly shot out straight when Eric prayed for him, and his arms and hands also straightened. He was wheeled away still in the chair however.

Even so, it had been a wonderful night. So many had been saved; and so many others had been healed and touched by the Holy Spirit.

The thrill of another great night of ministry was dampened when LaVonne told him tearfully that she felt she could not come home to the UK on the 6th.

Today she had suddenly felt drained. They agreed to see how she was in the morning, and they would both pray.

Tomorrow Eric would fly from Curitiba to the international airport at Sao Paulo; and his flight to Washington DC was at 25 after midnight (the 6th).



The issue was whether LaVonne would meet him at the gate in DC for their flight to Heathrow.

They had been discussing this for days.

**Sao Paulo, Monday Dec 5th**

God told Eric first thing in the morning that LaVonne would definitely make the flight to London; and He confirmed it with an angelic visitation.

So when Eric called LaVonne, he told her God was saying she would definitely be on the London flight.

This was the confirmation that LaVonne was asking God for. Her family were afraid for her, but LaVonne believed she had heard God tell her to go to England and to trust Him. She asked God to confirm it, and moments later Eric called and told her God's word to him – that she would be on the flight..

Even so, it was a real struggle for her to pack and make it to the airport in Columbus. But, trusting in God's words to her and from Eric, she went for it!

**Washington DC, Tuesday Dec 6th**

Eric scanned the rows as he approached Gate C1 in Washington's Dulles Airport. There was no sign of LaVonne; yet her flight from Columbus should have arrived much earlier than his flight from Sao Paulo.

Suddenly she surprised him! She leapt out at him from behind an advertisement stand! She looked and felt totally fine! 😊

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**Afterword**

Doctors in the UK found no trace of a heart attack in tests, including an ECG, which is a miracle.

LaVonne never felt better and was off all medication. The attack on LaVonne was simply an attack by the enemy of our souls that God allowed to test Eric and LaVonne's hearts.

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