

Friendship with Eternal Consequences

by Hope Owsley, Brazil

One of our goals when we returned to Brasília in February 2016 was to get acquainted with the businesses near our church building. (Our resolution was easy to keep since many of the shops are restaurants, bakeries and ice cream stores.) Next door to us is a cafeteria where we decided to eat on our date days whenever possible. We struck up a friendship with the owners, Fabiano and Priscilla, and soon learned a bit of their history.

They had both come from broken marriages and were living together. They were struggling legally with his family members over the ownership of the restaurant. Fabiano and Priscilla were relieved and grateful when we offered to pray with them and for them. The Lord began to do a great work in their hearts, and they were married a few months later.

The lawsuit still lingered. The evidence was in their favor, but the judge was on the side of Fabiano's relatives. Again we spent time praying and counseling with them. At the end of September Fabiano told us, "It looks like we are losing the case. Would you be willing to hold a thanksgiving service for us? No matter what happens we want to thank God for His hand on our lives." Two days later we met in our church to praise the Lord for His goodness. Fabiano testified, "What my family has meant for the worst, God has used for the best. I am confident in His faithfulness."

All these trials have given our friend a tender heart. Recently a man was caught stealing a car beside the restaurant. The policeman tied the thief up and put him face down on the dirt parking lot. Fabiano said that in the past he would have felt only disdain for the culprit, but now he felt overwhelmed with compassion. Fabiano quickly knelt down beside the man and whispered into his ear, "God can change your life." We are thankful the Lord allowed us to build a friendship with Priscilla and Fabiano and are confident that "He who began a good work in them will bring it to completion" Philippians 1:6.

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