



January 2025

Dear Friends and Family,

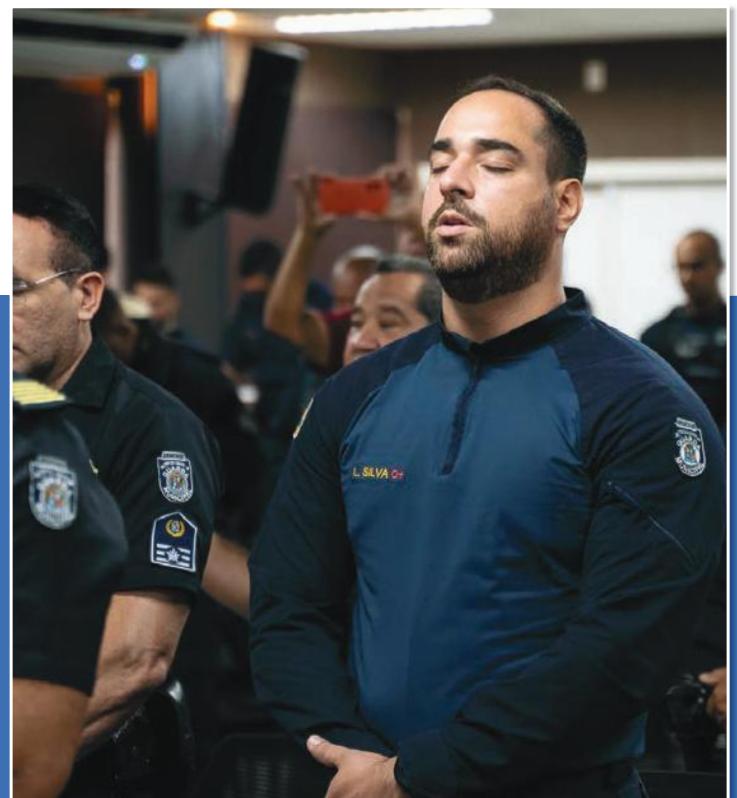
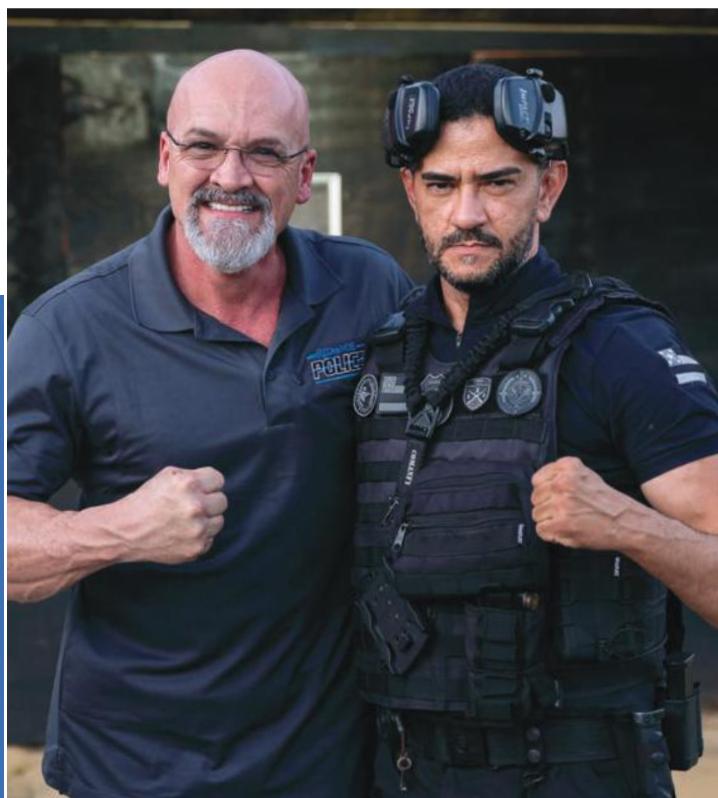
I just returned from Brazil, where we completed two weeks of outreaches consisting of 25 meetings in two different cities. We targeted three arenas: churches, schools and public service. I called it the "Trifecta of Brazil." In Brazil, January is known as "White January", a time where the nation recognizes and supports the mental health of first responders. Over the years, our endeavors have made a mark on the nation focusing on anti-suicide and mental health as it relates to young people. Because of this, over the years we have also been approached by local municipalities to bring the message of life to police, military, firemen and prison officials in the cities where we minister.

While serving as a volunteer chaplain for my local police department, I understand how the pressures and responsibilities of the job can impact the mental health of officers and the lives of their families. **In fact, in Brazil, suicide is the leading cause of death for police officers.**



We focused our attention in the city of Aracaju in the state of Sergipe. Although this state is the smallest by land size, it has implemented some of the nation's largest initiatives concerning mental health and required communication standards in universities, schools and local administrative organizations. This fact alone has given us unprecedented access to local and government facilities as well as military and state and local prisons. It was encouraging to hear participants responses after each event and answer at times heart-wrenching questions about the struggles they and their families deal with daily.

Although these are governmental agencies, my status as a chaplain opened doors of faith-filled, transparent communication, and they were appreciative of the spiritual insight. Even though I'm a foreigner, they embraced the message of life and the encouragement that was provided; I was intrigued that regardless of cultural differences, **the emotional, spiritual and mental needs of first responders is so similar in different cultures.**



We began our outreaches with those in authority and had the same opportunity with those who found themselves incarcerated. Working in conjunction my friends at a local church, we had open doors at four different prison facilities: **women, youth, men and military**. For many years I have had the opportunity to speak to those in prison, and this is an incredibly rewarding opportunity. There is no greater place to communicate the truth of freedom in Christ and expose the deception behind thoughts of suicide.

In each facility, security was tight and we had certain protocols to adhere to for our safety. Although the atmosphere was oppressive, the power of God's spirit and the veracity of His word unlocked hearts and minds. The desperation and hopelessness that roams the cells of prisons is palpable. **Just as you can feel the opposition, you can also feel the freedom that awaits if it is received in faith.**

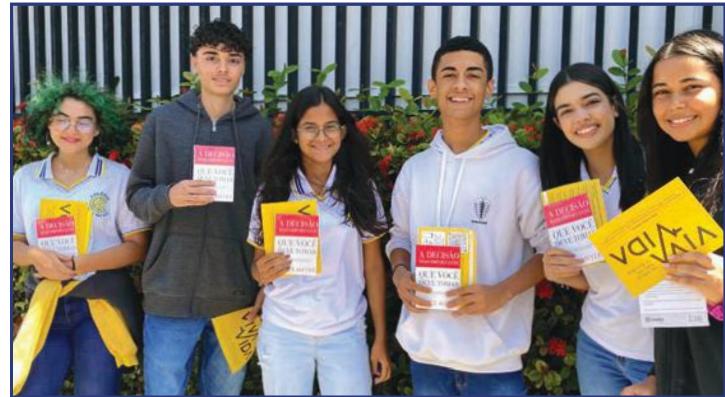


The message of Life in Jesus exposes the insidious nature of suicide and is paramount in the process of unlocking hearts and minds. Our time in the youth prison was especially rewarding. Because of recent rioting and violence, we were only able to speak face-to-face with 20 young men. I was not disappointed, I knew that Jesus was going to do good to the very worst!

As I communicated the hope we have in Jesus, these hardened faces began to soften and tears were visible as hope invaded their souls; His presence created an atmosphere of grace that was obvious to both prisoners and guards. After the service, we were given access to the dorm cells to give books and offer prayers to those who desired.



There was an added surprise at the end of the trip when I had an opportunity to hold two days of "Viva Vida" events in local schools in Sao Paulo. I've traveled through this city countless times over the years, but this was my first time visiting schools in the area. The meetings did not disappoint, Jesus did what only He can do: open the hearts of those in desperate need. **These doors and many other invitations have opened, offering another city to communicate life to a generation at risk!**



In July 2024, after over a decade working full-time in administration at a child abuse center as well as in multimedia design for a mentor and scholarship organization for foster kids, I made the decision to leave the traditional workforce and launch my own business in website and graphic design:

Shay Daniel Design (www.shaydaniel.com)

While my previous roles were both incredibly rewarding and educational, we finally reached a

point where making this transition was possible. One of the many reasons for this change was to be able to support Chad with CDM. I've been involved in various areas, and next month, I'll be joining him on his trip to Portugal.

We are so excited about this new chapter and truly appreciate your prayers and support!

- Shay Daniel



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Online giving is available at
www.chaddaniel.org
and is tax deductible!



Thank you for continuing to keep me in prayer as I step out in faith to do all I can to reach a generation for Jesus.

Next up: Portugal!

Chad Daniel



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