

Edu & Jandira Released from Bondage

Matthew 28:18

*Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying,
All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

Edu and Jandira got saved in a home visit. After a few weeks of discipleship they decided to burn all their fetishes and things that belonged to spiritism and witchcraft. They were terrified about doing this. Edu, a tall, gentle, very black semi literate man with a deep voice said he was afraid, "I'll go down" meaning he'd be overpowered by demons that would make him pass out. We encouraged them that the Lord was stronger than demons and we would be there with other believers to pray for them. We planned a fetish burning service in the church front yard the following Sunday.

We were really concerned about this because our congregation was very small. Most people were new believers. We prayed and asked the Lord to stand with us as they took this huge step of faith. Normally our attendance was around 40 people. That night as we waited for the service to start little by little people began to trickle into the church. No one knew that this burning of fetishes was going to take place because we had no way of telling them. But God was calling people together on that special night. I was surprised to see that people came from the other side of the city traveling by bus an hour and a half to get there, because God told them they needed to be there. That night we had 63 people gathered together in a large circle around a huge bonfire in which the fetishes were burned. An odd thing happened as we started to burn those fetishes.

First, we doused all of them with alcohol. Alcohol is very flammable but safe. And then we lit matches and threw them on the alcohol. But the alcohol wouldn't ignite. We tried three times. Then we prayed and asked the Lord for help. This time the alcohol ignited and the fetishes burned with a huge plume of black smoke. As we did so we sang, prayed and held hands in a circle. Edu did not "go down." That night they were delivered from the power of Satan's kingdom.

Their daughter, Carmen, attended with them that night and when she saw what God had done, she confessed Christ as her Savior and brought her fetishes to be burned. They remained faithful in the Alliance Church until the last few years when they changed churches. We were not in Porto Alegre when Edu died, but here is the story we were told.

He was in the hospital (I think he had suffered a stroke). One day he looked at Jandira and said' "Honey, I want you to bring my suit to me." Jandira asked why and he told her that he was going to a banquet. She said, "Edu, you are not

going to a banquet without me" and he responded, "This time I am." She brought him his suit and put it on him. Sometime later, Edu raised his hands in the air and said, "The angels have come to get me." He dropped his hands and died. Talk about the Lord preparing him for his home going! What a wonderful way to enter the presence of God.