** ABWMOPAD THRIVE CONFERENCE PROJECT**

 *Pack a suitcase for Brazil*

With THRIVE Conference going virtual, it is time for us to be as creative as possible to get our Conference Project items to the thrift shops in Brazil. It may sound impossible to physically gather ‘things’ when we will not be physically gathering, but we know that “all things are possible with God”! God has provided a way for us to continue the collections *for* Brazil, that will then be delivered *to* Brazil as extra luggage with those who travel back and forth between the continents for business and to support **Hope Unlimited**. Our part is to pack suitcases and get them to one location, Lancaster, PA. We are setting up satellite locations to make it easier for you to contribute to the Conference Project and will update exact locations as they are known. A representative from **Hope Unlimited** will collect the suitcases from Lancaster and send them to Brazil. To help the thrift shop in Brazil, we may need to visit one in our own area! I was able to purchase two suitcases for $12 at my local THRIFT STORE.

**HERE IS THE PLAN:**

(1) Get a suitcase! Maybe you have one in the attic or basement you know *you* will not use again or visit the Thrift Store. Suitcases will be sold in the Brazilian thrift store too. Size of suitcase is not as important as the total weight of the suitcase plus its contents. It should not exceed 45 pounds.

(2) Collect ‘IN GOOD CONDITION ONLY’ *costume jewelry*, *hand-made items* (crocheted doilies, embroidered pillowcases, fancy towels, decorative nick knacks, etc.), *reading glasses* (with cases is extremely helpful), *ladies’ handbags*, and *NEW children’s clothing items* (sizes newborn to adult child). Wrap jewelry and eyeglasses in tissue paper or bubble wrap, and place into a handbag or *plastic container* - *WAIT, what plastic containers???* This is a new to the list, but it makes sense. Missionary Corenne Smith had asked for good plastic containers because they are very popular in Brazil. We thought they would take up too much space, but if they are holding something inside, and are a plus in packing, it is a win win! How many purses or extra plastic containers in *GOOD CONDITION* do you have tucked away in your home and are no longer using? You may wish to put a note on or inside the container stating “bracelets”, “necklaces”, etc. ***Please do not use a permanent marker to write on the containers***…remember they will be resold. *Great condition high heels* would be a HIT! Did you buy a pair for a wedding and they were ‘one timers’? Tuck wrapped jewelry in the toes of shoes, wrap the shoe in a fancy hand towel, put that into a purse and then into the suitcase. Tuck clothing, and soft items around the containers to cushion them for shipping.

Be creative, my dear ladies. I am certain that we can manage to generate some ‘wave’ that will transport those filled suitcases from where you are to Lancaster, PA and then on to Brazil.

Blessings my friends, please have fun with this project. The impact will be impossible for us to measure but God will use it and multiply what your loving hearts provide.

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