



Merry Christmas!

# Brazil Update



December 2011

## Embrace-a-Child

One of the biggest blessings in the Embrace-a-Child program is that we get to bring children to the AMO Campus for camp and different activities throughout the year. Like last year we ended this year celebrating Jesus's birth by buying presents and having a day of skits, games, soccer, swimming pool, ice cream, cake, cotton candy and presents. This is a time where the volunteers have a wonderful opportunity to just love on them as they need it so badly.

Reflecting over the kids who participate in our program it's easy to see why they are so much unstable.....Jessica (12) and Jacqueline (14) became orphans this year. Their mother, Marli (39), died leaving these two with nowhere to go. They ended up staying in the homes of friends where drugs and domestic violence is common. Jessica is now staying with a family where the mother is an alcoholic and the father is a drug user (four of this couples children also participate in our program). Jacqueline is living with a single mother that already has five of her own. Last year this woman put a burning hot spoon in the palm of her daughter's hand and forced her hand closed. The girl ran away and the police wound up picking her up later on the highway and took her to a shelter. This girl has, over the last two years, ran away from home numerous times only to wind up in the hands of social services. Her brother age 11 wound up at the City of Boys Shelter for over a year.

Gabriela (5) and Mateus (7) love coming out to the mission property. Their dad is a thief, alcoholic and drug user. He got kicked out of our favela community for stealing. These children have lived on the streets of Campinas with their mother because him. The kids "grandmother" was about the only stable thing they had in their lives and she passed away several months ago.

Sadly, many of these kids have similar stories. Most of these children we have known for a very long time. Please pray for them, for our volunteers, and that A.M.O. can plan for a better future for these children.



## Partners

Thank you all for this wonderful year of ministry! Every one of you! You have shown sacrificial prayer and giving that has enabled us to be on the mission field 24 hours, 7 days a week serving those whom He loves.

Going into 2011 we had a great need to go back and see our supporters as the economy has affected many churches and individuals in their giving. It has been a big step of faith financially this year to remain in Brazil, but God has made it possible. He has provided additional support through spontaneous individuals giving and one new partnering church.

Feliz Natal  
 Merry Christmas  
 Feliz Ano Novo  
 Happy New Year  
 Feliz Natal  
 Merry Christmas  
 Feliz Ano Novo  
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 Feliz Natal  
 Merry Christmas  
 Feliz Ano Novo  
 Happy New Year

## Word of Life Seminary– Atibaia, Sao Paulo

We had been praying for God to open doors for new relationships with other Brazilian churches. Within two months, we received a call from the Greek professor from Palavra da Vida (Word of Life), seeking the Lord's direction in doing a week of ministry with AMO. In just a few weeks, plans were made and God's glory was shown during a full week of Brazilians loving on their own impoverished people. It was so wonderful to see AMO and Word of Life Students working together as one spiritual body trying to restore people lives to Christ. We felt His Presence as did many others with whom we ministered to.

The first day brought tears to many of those who had never experienced the reality of such poverty that, for the very first time, surrounded them. They could see, touch, smell, and sense satanic poverty close up that the men, women children and infants faced every day. Where in this community, could we find love, peace, goodness, hope, righteousness and victory for these people? It was found in us! Praise the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord who poured out His Spirit from heaven, the One who sits on His throne. "It is not I that lives, but He lives in us". Those rivers of living water began to flow out of our hearts and began to spill out on the people living in darkness.

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## Cracolandia

Many of the people from favela Moinho in São Paulo come from Cracolandia, a few blocks away. The favela people go back and forth from Moinho to Cracolandia. Cracolandia is a gathering area of people who are users of all sorts of drug, especially crack. It's where drug users and traffickers hang out and sleep on the streets when police are not bothering them.

The first day I walked by this crowd with AMO volunteers there was a gathering of 500 - 600 people doing and selling drugs, carrying their pipes around smoking crack, all gathered together on one block. I wanted to see where many of our favela people from Moinho hung out during the day. I was holding Beatriz's hand (our 7 year old adopted daughter-to-be), Marcela (our 14 yr old daughter through guardianship), Emily (intern from LifePoint) and three other Brazilian volunteers. As I approached the corner where the crowd was, I was debating if I should go around the crowd or go through it, when a man who looked like a leader of the crowd looked me right in my eyes. He asked "do you want to go through?" "Yes, can we?" He began to tell the people to let me through, that a "father with daughters coming through!" Another began to follow us saying, "**Let the angels through! Let the angels through!**" As we finally reached the other end of the crowd, I was looking at the leader to see if he wanted anything for his service, but he just look at me recognizing he was finished. I looked into his eyes and said Thank You.

None of the volunteers sensed fear they just followed right behind me. What an incredible experience God provided for all of us. It felt like a miracle from God. Just as God parted the Red Sea, His angels parted the multitude of crack users on both sides so that we could walk in safety. God has been faithful through all these years working in the slums. "4. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadows of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. 5. Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou has anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. "Ps. 23:4, Amen!

## God's Glory shines in the darkest moments



Mineiro (a 29 year old man in the favela) had heard about Christ many times, especially through our church in Campinas. One night God led me to into a "costly" illustration about grace. Mineiro could not understand the meaning of grace. "Grace is a gift, a favor that we do not earn or deserve"... finally I took out \$50.00 reais from my wallet, the only bill I had! "You see, Mineiro I am giving to you, out of grace, out of the goodness of my heart as a present to you. You did not work for it or deserve it." His eyes could not believe that he was about to receive such a large quantity. Vera, his wife, was beaming as she could have really used it for the kids. "But you see, it is yours, I give it to you as a gift out of grace. The same

way God gave His Son by grace as a sin offering to save us from sin." He then said, "Now I understand what you are saying about grace. "That moment He received Christ by Grace through faith.

Two weeks later I was sitting on his bed as he was very ill from taking medication together with alcohol. I told him that, if he didn't stop, he was going to leave his four month old and 1½ yr. old daughters along with two other children from his wife's previous "husbands" behind. Approximately one week went by and we got a call at 2am from his wife crying and telling us that he had just died.

Standing around the casket at the funeral home, Rafaela (8) said "Tio Pedro can I pray for my dad?" I called for everyone's attention including the religious leaders who were standing around and we bowed our head in prayer as Rafaela started out her prayer....."Heavenly Father, thank you for this day...." After she was done she pulled out a drawing that she had made at our Church on Sunday and laid it at her stepdad's feet as a good-bye present.

Her brother Everton (12) was afraid to face his father's death so I was able to get him to come into the room where the casket was. He quietly took off his baseball cap and placed it on his stepfather's chest. One of the religious leaders there was so impressed at how the children reacted at their stepdad's funeral that it opened a 30-minute door for me to tell **him** about the gospel.

*"I want to pray for my dad....."*

*Rafaela, 8 years old said at the funeral home*

*Word of Life / A.M.O.*

*.....continued from pg 2*

*A man stopped Pete with tears in his eyes and began to testify what he saw, "I want to be like you all! Serving God like you, giving out the good news, helping people like you." He went on to explain. "I now suffer in this place, because years ago my pastor did not tell me I had to give my 100% to God! I only gave 50% and that just does not work! Look at me and where I am now!" The man picked up all this as He watched our team love on his community, a favela that I refer to as "hell without flames".*

Paulo, who is at times bedridden because of AIDS was brought vitamins for his health, Tylenol for his pain, healing Words for his depression, and love to replace his thoughts of killing people.

The power of God (the gospel) was given to a transvestite and his lover through the use of a water filter. They engaged with us in prayer to our Creator in repentance of sin, forgiveness of sin and the recognition of the death and resurrection of the Savior.

A smelly infant without diapers was bounced on the knee of someone who loved Jesus. Kids were hugged and blessed despite their lice! Fifty seven people were given the gospel before receiving clothes, shoes and other donations. "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' Matthew 25:40



Apascentai Minhas Ovelhas /  
Feed My Sheep



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**Please pray with us and A.M.O. for the following:**

- Pray that we will know the right time when we can come home and visit our supporters. We have additions to our family Beatriz, Marcela, and Karolina. It will be hard to plan as we have commitments for team visiting throughout the year and the girls all go to school so it will be difficult for them to miss out). Also, pray for their documents to be finalized so that we can get their passports and other travel documents in order.
- Pray for our Brazilian leaders to grow and become greater leaders for their church.
- Pray for church growth and relationship building with other Brazilian Churches.
- Pray that the people, who God has touched through chronological bibles studies, will grow into true disciples for Christ.
- Pray for future projects-Road Entrance to other property and future buildings for AMO.
- Pray for our son, Josiah, who is in College- for guidance and wisdom, our daughter, Jessica, who has been looking for a job, and for our youngest son, Luke, who is finishing up High School (homeschool).

## Important Contact Information

**\*please note that we will be canceling our current email address:**

**amofavelas@terra.com.br (current)**

**and will be using just the new ones below:**

amofavelasbrazil@gmail.com (emails in general)

amofavelas.pete@gmail.com (specific for Pete)

amofavelas.jodi@gmail.com (specific for Jodi)

**BLOG:** [www.ubcmiami.org/tag/brazil](http://www.ubcmiami.org/tag/brazil)

**WEBSITE:** [www.feedmysheepbrazil.com](http://www.feedmysheepbrazil.com)

*To make a tax-deductible donation please send your check to : Central Missionary Clearinghouse PO Box 219228 Houston, TX 77218-9228. Please make the check payable to them and attach a note saying that it is for the ministry of Pete Brennan. If there's specific designation for the funds please indicate that as well (i.e., personal support, building fund, water pump, Embrace-a-Child, etc.) A tax-deductible receipt will be sent back to you. **\*\*Please note: in the near future CMC will be set up to accept online donations on our behalf....we will keep you posted.***