

Giving the glory to God in..... Brazil

Reflection and praise for 2006

FYI

- Nine more people are finishing up the Baptism class and will be baptized in a few weeks here at our church in Jarinú.
- Several other church groups have used the A.M.O. property and facilities this past year to hold retreats for couples, youth camps, baptisms, and sports fellowships. In 2007 we would like to start bringing children from the favela out to participate in camp retreats.
- In 2006 we were granted the permission to make an entranceway off of the main road right onto our property. Estimates and quotes were gathered but the actual work has not been started yet pending funding. We are now seeking an extension of that approval.

Partnerships

We would like to give thanks for our wonderful partnerships with University Baptist Church of Coral Gables, FL, First Baptist Church of St. Pete, FL, and First Baptist Church of Smyrna, TN! We are also grateful to the various individuals that support us each month and to those who send special gifts. The faithful support of each one makes it possible for us to be here ministering through various programs, some of which are on the following pages.



Teams

When mission teams come the excitement that the team members bring with them is contagious! Many exchange their "vacation time" to come and minister with us in the favelas. The love and willingness-to-do-anything attitude that they bring with them is incredible! Whether they are painting, visiting, sewing, singing, witnessing, teaching, or digging ditches they do it with such excitement. These teams bring with them many ministry supplies and donations which are a huge blessing to our ministry! At the present time we are distributing donated vitamins to a number of different poor families that we minister to. A total of five mission teams came to help us in the ministry this past year. In 2007 three trips are already marked with a fourth pending.

Ministry Van

Our 1998-ministry van that we use in all areas of the ministry work has a whopping 372,000 km on it! Much of our travels are on dirt roads full of potholes, mud slicks, and bumps. The asphalt roads at times are not much better. Despite many repairs the Lord has kept it running! Not only are we grateful for it but most our church attendees depend on it to bring them to church as they have no other way of getting here.



Student support

We are thankful for our partnerships with churches and individuals that have a heart for our Seminary Student/ Ministry Volunteers. Their support helps provide for the students basic living expenses and personal needs. These students help full-time in the ministry work in the favelas and at A.M.O.'s headquarters church. Each one is developing their own personal ministries within the structure of A.M.O.



Christmas play

With the help of some friends in Tennessee we were able to make a full set of costumes and a large stage curtain for our young teenagers to perform The Christmas Story. Our seminary students each had a part in making the stage, preparing the costumes, practicing lines and music for the big day. Many non-believers showed up and the relatives of one of our members made a huge cake. Anderson was the overall organizer this year and he did a wonderful job involving many of his students.



Juliana



Juliana is a 14 year old girl that we've known for a long time. She lives with her mother and five younger siblings in a run down, patched together home in the favela. She has a lot of responsibility in her home as she has to take care of the younger kids while her mother works. Since she was years eight old she's been cooking for the family. She goes to school but misses frequently thus she's behind several grades. At fourteen years old she'll be starting the 6th grade next month. Some times the stress of her responsibilities gets to be too much for her.

Recently we took Juliana out of the favela for a few days and had her stay with us. She spent four wonderful days playing, swimming, resting and receiving individual bible studies on her level. It was great to see

Just some of the donated items we receive to distribute to the poor:



Food



Hygiene kits



Baby items



vitamins



School supplies



Medical kits

Thank you for your contributions!

Kids!

One of the best parts about this ministry is the hundreds of hugs we get every week! Everywhere we minister there are kids, and lots of them. Many times when we drive our big blue van into a favela the kids come running, jumping and yelling in excitement. They love the attention and hugs just as much as we do! If we cannot make it to one of the kid's classes due to weather or road conditions they tell us later that they waited and waited to see if we'd show up!

A new project headed up by FBC Smyrna is "Adopt-a-Child" where church members are sponsoring a favela child for three months. During those three months the children will participate in extra special events and activities and possibly even a camp experience here at A.M.O.'s headquarters. More than 130 children have been "adopted" in this program and more will be coming. Praise the Lord!



Varzea

It's always a challenge to minister to the youth from this poor, drug and crime-infested neighborhood! Lack of discipline and a general disrespect for everything dominates all that they do. It would be easy to shrug them off as hopeless but we know that's not true. The teens that have come from this neighborhood, over 100 people, may have come to take advantage of the pool or the soccer field but that doesn't matter. All have plainly heard the Gospel.



Counseling opportunities

Everywhere we turn there are people hurting...marriage problems, child abandonment, depression/suicide, drinking, domestic violence, spiritual oppression, and the list goes on. The opportunities to help people are tremendous!

Last night a woman who attends our church showed up at our gate around 10 pm. She was desperate and wanted prayer. In December she started having health problems but, after many tests, the doctors couldn't find out what was wrong with her. Each week that went by she got much worse to the point that she wound up in the emergency room three times this week! Feeling terribly bad she was ready to go to the hospital again last night but her mother, who's a non-believer, said, "why don't you go to Sr. Pedro's (Pete's) house for prayer". Believing that this was more a spiritual problem than a physical one she and her husband, son, and two nephews walked to our place in the dark on muddy dirt roads. We sat with her for some time counseling and praying for healing of her physical problems while resisting the enemy. She came in with such an air of oppression and left feeling and looking much better.

Recently, after weeks of bible studies, she felt convicted of the many statues, idols, liquor, and types of music that she had accumulated so she went through her home and threw away everything.

Protection

When we look back over the past year we can really see that the hand of God was at work protecting us and keeping us safe. Through out the week we do a lot of driving work both on asphalt and dirt roads. Hazardous road conditions, crazy drivers, and problems with the van could have caused very serious accidents but they didn't, miraculously. Everywhere homes were being robbed, people being assaulted, and Brazil saw some of its worst organized crime ever committed. Last April someone in our family was targeted for kidnapping. The Lord foiled the plans and then miraculously provided, not just one but two, informants that alerted us to take our family away for a while and avoid a terrible situation.

Pete's parents health

This past year has been difficult for Pete's mother and father as their health is very fragile. They are both in their 80's and live in the New Tribes Mission Retirement homes in Sanford, Florida. We are thankful that they have such a wonderful place to live in and so many great people to fellowship with! The Lord willing, we pray that we will be able to get back to the U.S. to see them this year.

Our family

We are thankful to the Lord for our children! Jessica is in her second semester of college in Miami and we are grateful to UBC for helping with her tuition this semester! We also are grateful for all the wonderful "family" the Lord has blessed her with in our absence. Josiah just graduated high school here in Brazil in December and he will participate in the Seminary class courses here until we are able to send him to college. Luke will be starting the 8th grade at the end of this month and will continue to study in a Brazilian school nearby.



Please Note!!

For those who make financial contributions to our ministry the address to send to has changed!
The new address is
Central Missionary Clearinghouse
PO Box 219228
Houston, TX 77218-9228
1-800-CMC-PRAY

Please remember to make your check payable to them and specify that it is for the ministry of Pete Brennan/AMO. If the funds are designated for a specific use please indicate that as well.

We want to wish everyone a blessed 2007!

*In His Service,
Pete, Jodi, Jessica, Josiah, and Luke Brennan*

Shining the light of Jesus Christ in the favelas of Brazil.



Feed My Sheep Brazil / Apascentai Minhas Ovelhas
C.P. 90 Jarinú, São Paulo 13240-000 Brazil
Phone: 011-55-11-4016-4486 email: amofavelas@terra.com.br