

Brazil Update

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



January 22, 2006

Favela Fire

A section of favela Parque Novo Mundo in São Paulo caught on fire last month. Over sixty wooden shacks went up in flames before the fire could be contained. The owners of those shacks lost absolutely everything they owned. Thankfully no one was killed. This happened in an area where we hold weekly bible studies. Several of the mission teams that we've had here have walked this favela visiting and evangelizing in the homes. Our children's classes, which are usually held in their community center, have been moved to an open-air area as the center is being used to house displaced families.

In an effort to reduce the size of this favela the city has given the owners of the destroyed structures money with the agreement that they won't come back and rebuild at the same location.



Pile of rubble where shacks once stood.

Debris where a whole row of shacks burned.

More destruction along the river.

Christmas 2005

The children of A.M.O.'s church in Jarinú and those in the favela Gleba B once again participated in our annual Christmas play.

This year our Seminary students were put in charge of organizing, practicing and coordinating the entire production. One student wrote the script, several others helped to make the scenarios and stable, some made costumes, and all helped in the practices.



Stable/ Manger scene made of dried banana leaves and bamboo.

WorldCrafts

We are overjoyed that WorldCrafts has chosen to place a new order of hand painted and crocheted dishtowels from our ladies in the favela! They've chosen four new designs and our women have already begun painting. If anyone is interested in these dishtowels the WorldCrafts website is www.wmstore.com The new dishtowels will be on display starting the 8th of February.

To receive a free catalog call 1-800-968-7301. The money that WorldCrafts pays us for the dishtowels goes directly back to the women enabling them to provide for basic needs in their homes.



Smyrna Mission Team

During the month of November we had the awesome pleasure of hosting another mission team from FBC, Smyrna. A group of fifteen adults and two young teens came to minister the Word here in AMO's church and in the favelas where we minister. They brought with them all the materials and supplies they needed for the children's classes that they were to lead. The children were thrilled to receive individual Ziploc bags with their craft pieces in them (note: they had never seen bags like that before so most of them wound up ripping them to get at the contents inside!). They were equally pleased to receive *animal crackers* after hearing the story of Noah's Ark.



In addition to teaching children's classes some of the team worked in construction here on AMO's property. The roof of the multi-purpose "home" we are building was being prepared for roof tiles. The team worked extra hard at lifting and seating the huge, heavy boards, painting some of the interior rooms, and installing electrical outlets. What a huge difference the tiles, paint, and lighting made! The lower part of this house is already being used for our church services and Seminary classes. As it's completed we will use the kitchen and dining areas to hold all church and related ministry activities. The rooms will be used for various Sunday school/ bible study classes, with one serving as an office and a small library. In the future, as our church grows and we can build a larger meeting area, this will serve as housing for a missionary family to help us in the work.



Property Entrance

In June of 2001 we were blessed to receive permission from the city to take down some trees for the sake of future construction and development for AMO's ministries. We knew that getting this permission would be extremely difficult but, to the amazement of everyone, it happened. In that same year we were able to start preparing the land for future buildings and a church. Now we are in the process of obtaining permission to have a separate entrance onto the property from the main asphalt road. This entrance will make it possible for buses to enter the property easily. It will also add to the security of our missionary housing as the existing dirt road leading up to the entrance can be closed and used only for those living here.

The original permission certificate for any land clearing expires on **June 6th of this year.** That means that we have less than five months to get the entrance made. The topographer has already drawn up the plans, marked the land for clearing, and is now going to make his request to the city. Now we are waiting on the Lord for funding to complete this project.



Gate leading into property.

Prayer Requests

Please be with us in prayer for the following:

- ⇒ The upcoming Carnaval Camp Day for the children the 25th of February and for the overnight retreat for the teens on the 27th-28th at AMO's Headquarters (specifically pray for salvation!)
- ⇒ That more and more people hearing the Word consistently will make a decision for Christ
- ⇒ The Baptism of our new converts
- ⇒ The various mission teams scheduled to come this year– that their enthusiasm would be contagious to other members of their churches
- ⇒ Our partnership with FBC, Smyrna
- ⇒ God's continued blessings and protection for us and for our team (see below)
- ⇒ **Funding for the various needs of our ministry:**
 - overhead expenses
 - personal support
 - seminary student support (eight of our students volunteer full-time in the ministry)
 - road entrance & land clearing
 - more transportation (either a bus or two additional vans)
 - completion of construction
- ⇒ That the Holy Spirit will work in all areas of our ministry
- ⇒ For our daughter, Jessica, as she's far from us and having to adapt to working and preparing for study in Miami
- ⇒ That we can start the dishtowel painting program in another favela this year



Violence

Working in the areas that we do it's expected that we'll see our share of troubles going on. In recent months we've noticed an increase in criminal activity and changes within the favela communities that we work in. Our ministries and volunteers have not been personally affected but we constantly seek wisdom and guidance from the Lord so we do ask for your prayers.

In Favela Gleba B in Campinas an old drug lord got out of prison, we believe that he may have escaped, and is now back in the neighborhood stirring up trouble as a show of force. He is a violent man and many fear him. Last week a family that we know personally had to flee for their lives, leaving everything they had behind, as the woman angered this man and he tried to kill her.

In Favela Parque Novo Mundo, the drug lords went after the police and killed five of them at the police station in retaliation for having their plans to free their buddies from prison thwarted. This was a "payback" gesture.

In Favela Gato one of the leaders brothers had his throat slit in a dispute over ownership of a flimsy wooden shack in another favela.

Please pray that these areas will calm down quickly and that those who are causing trouble would be taken care of.

Proverbs 2:12-15 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,... who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways. NIV



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