

# Brazil Update

October 29, 2006

Apascentai Minhas Ovelhas  
-Feed My Sheep Brazil-

## Baptisms

What an honor as we were able to baptize two youth from our Jarinú church in October!

Rita is 20 years old, comes from a strong Catholic background and even taught children's classes in her church. After being invited many times by several of our seminary students Rita came and began attending our church regularly and helping in the children's ministry. She participated in chronological bible studies with one of our Seminary students and came to know Christ as her Savior.

Diego is 16 years old and is from a family of ten kids who are being raised by a single mom. He was baptized a few years ago through another church but never knew what the Baptism signified, nor was he a believer.

Not having a definite father influence in the home our Seminary students took Diego under their wings to mentor him and involve him in the favela ministry. Through that process and through participating in the bible studies he too accepted the Lord. This time he knew why he was being baptized!



*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."*  
*Matthew 28:19*

## Tough Teens

Tattoos, attitudes, swearing, smoking, street thug mentality, marijuana, and sexual permissiveness are just some of the obstacles we are having to overcome when dealing with a tough group of youth from a nearby neighborhood. When three of our regular kids moved to a different neighborhood they wanted to know if they could start inviting some of their friends. Although it's a little farther than those areas in which we already pick up kids, and it means even more trip with the van, we decided to include them also. Needless to say, we were amazed at the brazenness of these kids!

That was a few months ago. Now that we have a basic understanding as far as behavior, limits, etc things are rolling along pretty smoothly. These kids are the type that would never set foot inside a church, but they'll come here. Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings they are hearing the Word of God very clearly. Many of them already have a close relative or friends in prison. We pray that during their time here a seed will be planted that can make a real difference in their lives.



## Arts/ Crafts for Women

Recently we started a women's bible study and craft class in favela Aldeina in São Paulo. This is a favela made almost entirely of wooden shacks. One young woman opens her home for the ladies to participate with us. The space is very limited but there's always room for one more!



When the September mission team from Tennessee was here they brought a special project for the ladies to work on. Many of the women had never had contact with Americans before and were completely enchanted with the English translated and they were able to complete their projects and listen to testimonies from the TN ladies and some of them even had things to say before we left. One woman stood up to speak, with tears in her eyes, and said that she felt so good in that little hut with us. Just that week she had tried to sell her baby away in desperation. She had no money and no food and didn't know what to do. She said that she could feel the love that we had for them in such a personal way and that no one had ever been so kind to her before. It gave her great encouragement and strength to go on. PTL!



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## Juliana

Juliana is a very special young girl that God put in our lives a long time ago. She was only eight years old at the time and was taking care of two younger siblings all day long while her mother looked for work. At that age she was already making meals of hot rice and whatever else was available.

*"Tio Pedro (Pete), you care about me even more than my own mother does."*

*Juliana, 13 years old, favela Gleba B*

Now she is a beautiful 13-year old, has *five* younger siblings and her mother is going through a divorce. Juliana fills in as a full-time mom taking care of the family, fixing meals, and cleaning the dilapidated house that they live in. The pressures of going to school and then spending many hours caring for her brothers and sisters are too much for her to handle and she winds up crying a lot. Many times her mother leaves at night to see a boyfriend and other times he hangs around the house when her mom's not there.



The only entertainment she has is playing on the dirt roads with the other kids in an environment that's very dangerous. The drug lords are already using young kids her age, especially the boys, as lookouts for police presence in the favela.

## Improving Wooden Shacks

Padre's one-room wooden shack had a dirt floor and reeked of urine smell. His bed, stove, and everything else, sat on top of the dirt. He has no running water and no sewage system, just a toilet stool over a hole in the ground. The water that he uses comes from a pipe that runs down his dirt road. He has to collect enough water in a bucket for bathing, washing his clothes, and cooking. To make matters worse, he has a crippled ankle/foot that makes getting around even more difficult for him.



In another home where Cleonice and her six young kids live the electrical wiring was extremely hazardous. Exposed wires and dangerous connections, even in the shower heater heads, posed a real threat.

With the help of the TN team, we were able to lend a helping hand in both of these cases. We finished pouring a concrete slab in Padre's home to help him get around easier and help to keep his living area cleaner and several areas of high fire risk were patch or fixed in Cleonice's home.

## Children's Day

Children's Day in Brazil is a very anticipated day. This year our team made sure the kids had fun by performing skits, puppet shows, and lively living dolls to entertain and teach the kids bible stories and music.

In two days we ministered at our Jarinú church as well as in *five* different favelas and reached nearly 600 kids! The kids were thrilled and even the adults were sneaking peeks at the festivities.

In favela Aldeina, where our ministering space is very tight and in the open-air, the local bar owner closed his bar and allowed us to use his entranceway for our puppet show! In favela Gleba B a joint effort was made with the local leadership to reach the community. A group of ladies from our church there participated by baking an enormous cake and then helped to prepare and serve hotdogs and candy bags for the kids.



## September Mission Team

September was a month for getting things done! Of course, the Tennessee mission team had a lot to do with that! Arriving at the airport after an all-night flight we ate lunch on the run (actually, in a parking lot!) and headed straight for favela Aldeina. There the ladies broke out their "Saturday suitcase" and pulled out costumes, activities, and candies for the entire program for the day. They prepared a drama and a sewing activity for the kids and brought supplies for the women's crafts as well (see pg 2). The same crafts and activities were performed through out the week in different locations where we minister.

While here, the ladies made new curtains for the Ministry Center, tablecloths for the church's tables, and yarn wigs for our Children's Day dolls. They also put together hygiene and clothing kits to be distributed in the favelas.

The men kept themselves busy doing many different jobs through out the week. Pouring a concrete floor to improve a wooden shack (see pg 2), pouring part of a cement sidewalk around the multi-purpose building at A.M.O.'s headquarters, removing dirt on an embankment, electrical work and more. Tile was also put in place on the bathroom walls and bathroom fixtures mounted on the wall in the church bathroom.

Everyone helped to paint the Ministry Center in favela Gleba B, even some of the local women came to help out. Everyone pitched in to make dinner and helped serve after the evening service to the whole church.

We were blessed to have them here and look forward to having them again!

Thank you Bret, Susie, Gary, Sarah, Myra, Teresa, Wade, Kevin, Sean, Mike and Allen!!





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Gaby is a sweet little two-year-old girl that lives in favela Gleba B. She and her 9-year old sister were sexually abused by their father several months ago. He is now in prison and the sisters are being cared for in different homes. That trauma in her life has left her very fearful of men. Her emotional and physical needs are great. She's always dirty and not properly cared for. Those now responsible for her are relatives but they don't show much concern. Many times she is left alone with others to be cared for.

Pete makes a point to visit her when he can and is always praying for her. Little by little Gaby is starting to warm up to him. She smiles more, is talking to him now and will even give him a hug. She was so excited recently when he gave her some clothes, shoes and a hygiene kit. She checked everything out as she took it out of the bag (a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, comb, shampoo, clothes, etc). The shoes were the big hit though. She picked those out and set them on the couch for everyone to see!

We don't know what the future holds for this little one but we ask that you please be in prayer with us for Gaby's needs.

*A.M.O. is a non-profit organization with a heart for the very poor people of Brazil. We provide bible studies to all ages and offer special classes and programs for holidays and events.*

*In addition to the many programs that we have for children, adolescents, teens and adults, we provide spiritual and physical help as well. Donations of food, clothing, baby items, school supplies, hygiene kits, shoes, eyeglasses, etc., are prepared for distribution as needed. Fresh vegetables are grown at A.M.O.'s headquarters and distributed among the people in the favelas.*

*Our goal at A.M.O. is to create personal one-on-one relationships with these people so that they can see Jesus through us. Visitations are a vital part of our ministry in all areas where we work and, through the years, we've made many friends!*



## Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer with us for the following:

- Our family's health and that of our team
- Pete's parents, in Sanford Florida, who are aging and getting very frail
- That we can finish our website!
- Continued protection and safety for our family here in Brazil and for our daughter, Jessica, as she studies in Miami
- The entrance way project- that it may be started and completed as soon as possible
- That our transportation needs for an additional vehicle will be met
- For our entire team as they work in the favelas, study seminary courses, host mission teams, plan and organize events, etc that they be encouraged and blessed by all that they do