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THERE IS A MOUNTAIN OF WORK AHEAD

by John Medcraft

We praise God for the blessings and challenges of His work in north-east Brazil as EAB presses on towards its 80th year.

We have just inaugurated a new 2nd church at Campina Grande, which seats 265, and where the local pastor Hamilton already is planning on services being relayed to an overflow hall before long. At the other end of the size spectrum we are inaugurating a little church out in the wilds at Água Grande, up in the mountains, much deeper into the interior. We rejoice because people are coming to Christ in the cities and in the villages.

The Campina Grande Bible College sees 16 graduate in this its 15th year of ministry, so it's good seeing new leaders going into the harvest fields. Others are doing an excellent degree course, by extension online, which the Ministry of Education gives full recognition.

However the violence across this land is quite abominable with most of it being related to social inequality and the parallel drug abuse and trafficking. For years I have asked God to show us a way to reach out to drug and alcohol addicts, and this year the Lord brought right to us a Christian psychologist from the south of Brazil who works for a Christian specialist organization in this field and which is known in Britain as HopeUK. This brother gave a team of EAB/ACEV workers training and we have just started this very challenging project with weekly self-help meetings guided by our team. Please pray for this incipient project that God might bring in those in need of such help and guide us to help them.

Please pray for us too because as the project develops and becomes known we are sure to face the wrath of the drug dealers.

Another of our projects which reach into the drug ridden slums involves our regular 'Soup Runs' which are now led by Philip's wife Gylmara. This reaching out to the "five thousand" sees our team taking food and Gospel tracts to the desperately poor. The team is also often asked to pray for people who are sick or in special need. One of our church's policemen always accompanies the soup run team in support as our folk move into very dangerous territory.

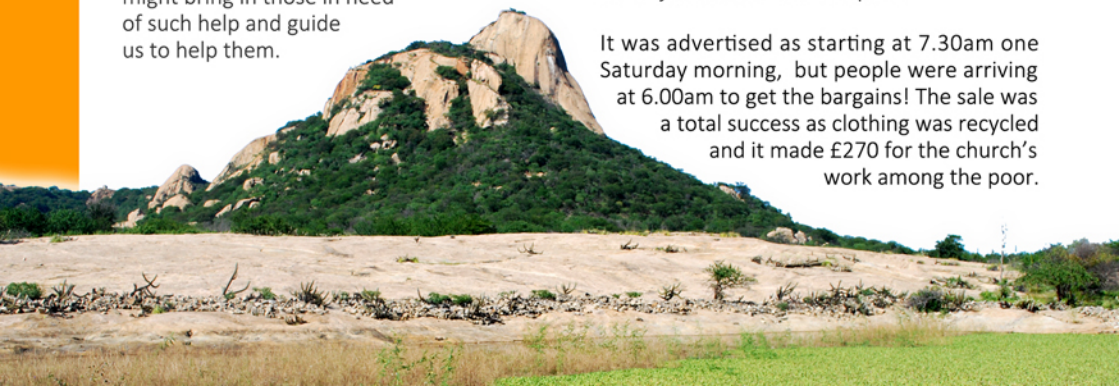
It is this overall integral approach to Christian ministry which touches people's lives and also speaks to those who are better off as they see the church in action. William Booth used to speak about ministering in 19th century London with "Soap, Soup and Salvation". EAB is just lacking the soap part!

RECYCLING CLOTHING



The Patos church members donated clothing for a "jumble sale" for the poor.

It was advertised as starting at 7.30am one Saturday morning, but people were arriving at 6.00am to get the bargains! The sale was a total success as clothing was recycled and it made £270 for the church's work among the poor.



THE MISSIONS PLAY: 'Zé Paulino & Rosa dos Gatos'

by John Medcraft

In Brazil the Mission's anniversary is celebrated on the nearest Sunday to September 2nd, date on which EAB founders Albert and Daisy Mundy first arrived in Brazil 79 years ago.

This year I, together with Liz and our drama director Dilma, wrote a Missions play which was given its first performance on the day. The play tells part of our history, exalts the glorious grace of God and challenges youth for the future of missions.

Rosa dos Gatos (Rose of the Cats) was so named because she made and sold plaster of Paris large model cats.

She was married to Antonio until she had an affair around 1940 with Zé Paulino, who was to be the first EAB/ACEV evangelist. They planned and carried out her husband's murder to be together, but were caught and sent to jail.

There Albert Mundy preached the Gospel and the infamous couple were gloriously converted.

When they had served their sentence they became fervent members of EAB's first church at Princesa Isabel and Zé Paulino helped Albert construct the first EAB church building where he was consecrated as an evangelist. Zé Paulino led many to Christ but died in his 40s. Following the death bed scene, where the evangelist yet led his final soul to Christ, the play ends with him being received by Jesus in glory, and there wasn't a dry eye in the church. "Where sin abounds... grace much more abounds"!



Albert Mundy

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CHURCH & SPORT

Action Sport drew 150 children and youths from EAB/ACEV churches for a football tournament at Tabira. The event was supported by ACEV and Tear Fund. Medals and trophies were awarded and the footballers were congratulated for their discipline and determination. This ministry to kids is really going well, is growing and touching many lives, being a bridge to the church and the Gospel.

Reminder for Child Sponsors

(by Marian Rashleigh)

Child sponsorship is working very well after changes in recent months.

We would encourage sponsors to write to their sponsored child as the children get very excited when a letter comes.

It can be easily sent by email, written in English, clearly marked with the child's name and number, to John Medcraft at: eabrazil@gmail.com

John will get it translated and forward it to the appropriate teacher for the child. You can also send it by post to John at John Medcraft, Caixa Postal23, Patos, Paraiba, 58700-970, Brazil.

THINGS THAT GOD DOES!

by John Medcraft

Orlando Renovato is that gardener, some of you may remember, who started his gardening business as the result of EAB's 'job creation scheme' many years ago, when he was loaned money to buy equipment.

Orlando has never looked back and has developed a thriving business with more requests for his work than he can cope with.

Through our contacts with the man his family was invited to church and his son Lucas eventually started coming to Sunday School where he gave his life to Christ.

One day Lucas questioned why only he was a Christian and invited his Dad to church. One Sunday recently Orlando himself committed his life to Christ and now he gladly witnesses to all his customers. Things that God does!

Ray Santana is a 22 year old 3rd year university student of journalism and a member of our Patos church. He came to Christ as a result of our youth witness.

Recently my son Philip gave me a tip off that Ray was very good in his field of study and suggested he might be good to try with Mission communications in Brazil on social media, website etc. The truth is that Ray is proving to be a resounding success and blessing helping EAB/ACEV to spread the Gospel in new and exciting ways.

Things that God does!

EAB just needs 22 year olds in the UK now to take the burden of the work here to their hearts!



Ray Santana

EAB NEWS IN BRIEF

- Since our last edition our ex-Chairman of the EAB Board, Ken White, received his home call, as did my dear mother Margaret Medcraft and the ex-Action Child coordinator Pauline Pennells. Also called to Glory was faithful EAB supporter Peter House. We praise God for their lives and dedication to the work of EAB.
- The Patos church teenagers have their own prayer meeting on a Tuesday night. Beat that!
- The Deaf Fellowship held their own day conference in June with a moving service, open to us hearers at night, where they led and preached. Inspiring!
- Pray for Pastor Wostenes (Campina Grande) who broke his leg and ankle in a motor-bike accident whilst out evangelizing with the biker team.
- EAB's Bee project is producing good honey for small farmers and really buzzing!



Orlando Renovato

PIONEER CHURCHES

by Marian Rashleigh

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At the Patos Church are a group who formed “**Christians in Action**” which help small pioneer churches scattered throughout the area.

The team visit small congregations and help with their services when they sing, read the Bible, pray, give testimonies and preach, as well as helping at outreaches.

One evening I spoke at the beautiful village of Picotes, about 14 miles from Patos, down a mud track. The picturesque village nestles against a mountain and has not changed since it was built, and is used as a set in films. The one committed Christian who lives there has gathered a group of interested folk. We met the small congregation on the veranda of her house, supported by the Christians in Action group.

At Ipueira the church plant is slow, but more developed, with 5 committed Christians. I was preaching there one evening. Heavy rain was forecast but it was still decided to hold the service in the street outside the house they rent as a base for the outreach.

The Christians in Action group set up the loud speakers so the entire neighbourhood could hear the service too! It was while I was speaking the rain started – huge drops without warning, so immediately all the electrical equipment was moved into the small house followed by people carrying their chairs. They squashed into 3 rooms, and the service continued! Christians in Action are also responsible for the church at Onça and also support the Landless Community and the church at Passagem.

Across the work of EAB and their sister organisation in Brazil ACEV, there are 18 well established larger churches, 27 smaller churches and 36 small church plants in various stages of being established. Please pray for these church plants which are projects of faith which take years to build up.



foto: Carlos Queiroga - Clotur - www.clotur.com.br

ANOTHER WELL



A new manual pump has been installed at the site of a well at Quilombo (ex-slave community) Domingos Ferreira, bringing water and hope to the locals.

This is one of many wells we have initiated this year, bring the total wells we have provided to over 300.

NEW VEHICLE



The mud and stone roads and harsh weather take a toll on our vehicles which particularly carry heavy equipment for wells around to distant villages in the outback. We have had to replace our tired, worn-out and unreliable vehicle with a smart Fiat Strada which is essential for our social projects to help needy people.

FLORES DO SERTAO

(FLOWERS OF THE FOREST) by Marian Rashleigh

Liz and I went to the church for a craft session with the Flores do Sertao, who are ladies from the Placas, a slum area on the edge of town.

These women are abused by men, and earn very little money by scavenging on the nearby rubbish tip for paper, plastics and metal, or take part in the drug industry.

They used to meet in a rented place near their homes but the men were issuing death threats to our staff. They now meet on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at the Patos church, and are taught crafts so they have another way to earn a living. The ladies were so happy to be there, away from the pressures of where they live, knowing they can get support and help, including food parcels if they haven't anything to eat.

What I thought was lovely was that they had all been given T-shirts with a flower emblem on them and their group name. It gave them status and a sense of belonging. The staff wore the same T-shirts so anyone walking in would see the ladies as equals.

They were an assortment of ages, but quickly settled down. The ladies struggled with measuring at 2cm intervals but once we got onto making the beads, they were pleased to see their creations becoming bracelets, and once finished they proudly wore them.

Three of the ladies had not come. One was in prison having tried to smuggle drugs to her husband who was in prison, another had been beaten up and badly injured by her man-friend, who then set fire to all her belongings.

The 15 year old son of the third lady had been stabbed 6 times on a high bridge near to John and Liz's home.

The two youths then threw him over the top of the bridge and he landed about thirty feet down onto the embankment. They left him to die, with the knife still in his backbone. He was seen by a lady who called the emergency services.

After a few days in the local hospital his mother was told he was paralysed from the waist down and they couldn't do any more for him so asked her to prepare to have him home. He had many bedsores so they said his mother had to buy a water mattress as well as continence pads and toiletries. His mother works on the rubbish tip scavenging for things to sell and could not afford any of these so EAB/ACEV bought them.

He was to have a tracheotomy to aid his breathing, and she was told to put a ceiling in her house as the dust would get into his throat – it is a mud hut. The youth was transferred to a hospital in the state capital city, Campina Grande, where he had an operation on his lung and kidney. He remained in intensive care, where he died a few days later. Two boys have been arrested; one has been released because he didn't injure the boy, only held him while his friend did the stabbing!



FUNDRAISING

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Once more Marian Rashleigh will be making Gift Cards you can buy to further the work of EAB. Last year she raised £3,710 and is looking to break that record this year!

Please buy these unique presents for your nearest and dearest, and show them how much you really care.

We are very grateful that in the last few months two supporters have bequeathed some money to enable us to serve the poor in north-east Brazil. If you are interested in leaving EAB some money, or gifts, in your will please contact the treasurer (contact details on the back page) and ask for the legacy details.



New worship cd by Dave Flowers, "Grace". All proceeds to EAB and EAB's ActionChild. Pick one up at LCC for only £5

Or send a cheque made out to **Lighthouse Community Church.**

Lighthouse Community Church, Hardley Green, Hardley, Southampton SO45 3NZ

for £7 to cover P&P (£5 will be transferred to EAB) Please include your postal address!

E: admin@lighthousecommunitychurch.co.uk



PATOS CHURCH LIVE BROADCAST EVERY SUNDAY

Did you know that you can see and listen to the service in the Patos Church, live, each Sunday night at 18:30 (Patos time) and 22:30 (UK BST time). Do not miss this wherever you are!

We certainly have come a long way from the days of communicating by post which took months!

Watch each service live or see its recording the following day at: [facebook.com/Ação-Evangélica-Patos-PB-773650192729931](https://www.facebook.com/Ação-Evangélica-Patos-PB-773650192729931)



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Evangelical Action (Brazil)

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REMINDERS

Come and join with us at the 79th Annual Celebration which will be held at Lighthouse Community Church, Hardley, Southampton. SO45 3NZ on Saturday 11th November 2017.

A fellowship tea starts at 6.00pm and the service will commence at 7.00pm. There will be a Bring & Buy stall, so this will be a good opportunity to donate your unwanted presents, clear out your cupboards, or library.

Please support the EAB English language only facebook page.. by visiting it and clicking on the word "Like" at the top of the page. This is an important means of spreading the word about EAB on a worldwide scale and of keeping right up to date with daily photos and mini news snippets: facebook.com/eabrazil



Please support EAB!

If you would like to make a donation towards the work of EAB, please send your cheques made payable to 'Evangelical Action Brazil' to Mrs Beryl Gough, 6 The Glade, Langley, Southampton SO45 1ZP.

Alternatively, if you want to make a direct payment from your bank, our banking details are: Lloyds, sort code 30-91-85 account number 02385564. If you use this option please email eabfinance@gmail.com giving brief details of the donation. Donations can be made online at www.eabrazil.com

Any gift, no matter how small is greatly appreciated and will be used to further God's work in Brazil. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to 'Gift Aid' your donation, please ask Beryl for a form. Thank You!