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The Voice of Evangelical Action (Brazil)

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2 JUAZEIRINHO CHURCH PLANTS

Back in the 1990s EAB drilled a well in the County of Juazeirinho which is halfway between Patos and Campina Grande. The people were thrilled to have pure water from a tap! As usual they wanted to know why we did it and the local pastor shared that it was a blessing from God because he loved them. With people wanting to know more, Bible studies were held and gradually people became Christians.

Recently a church was inaugurated in the town with much joy. Pastor John Medcraft spoke at the service reminding them that the church's commitment must be to emulate God's values by practising the Gospel in full. Pastor Cláudio Rafael is now the pastor of this new church.

Please pray that the church members will continue to share the Gospel and show the love of God to those around them.

It is wonderful to see that this church has already evangelized a rural area of the county, some have come to Christ, so that now a new church plant is beginning there too!



Sandwich & Coffee

One day the Soup Run developed into a Sandwich & Coffee Run as that was what we could manage at the time.

The idea was very well received in some of the poor boroughs of Patos. The team took 110 packs of cheese and spam sandwiches with 10 litres of Brazilian coffee, and all went down very well! 43 Gospel tracts were also distributed, and people prayed for.

The new leader of the project is Police Sergeant João Batista who is a member of our Patos church. He organizes the collection of the food or financial donations, preparation and distribution of food, drives the Kombi, and provides discreet police cover for the work.

Please pray for the finance to continue this work, which is such a blessing to the extremely poor people of Patos.



Cemetery Evangelism

The young people from our church in Campina Grande, along with one of our pastors, went to the cemetery in the town of Pocinhos, where we have a church plant, to bring a word of comfort to mourners visiting the graves of their deceased family members on Brazil's annual remembrance day (November 2nd).

People were very happy to listen to what the evangelistic team had to say and many took the Christian booklets when they left. Please pray that the Word of God will touch their hearts and give them hope in Jesus.



A WEDDING WITH A DIFFERENCE

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Over my years of ministry, I have long lost count of the number of funerals, dedications of babies, and weddings I have conducted, but the latest wedding I conducted was different.

It was only the second such ceremony I have done where the groom was deaf and the bride was not deaf. As EAB has a very active ministry with the deaf it is not surprising that these opportunities crop up. Thus at the end of January I conducted the wedding of Antonio and Alyne.

Bless their hearts! Communication difficulties are complicated as I do not know Brazilian sign language and it was fun, to say the least, organizing this wedding! To start with Antonio is deaf but his mother and sister are not, and they do not sign or communicate with their son/brother. So initially we had all sorts of difficulties marking the date for the wedding and other simple details of the ceremony.

Then too on the eve of the wedding the groom turned up at my office very hot under the collar about a detail of the wedding which he had completely misunderstood but to understand which axe he was grinding and trying to communicate with him without an interpreter was a headache.

Eventually we all got to the church on time (even the bride!) and the ceremony went off great and unexpectedly smoothly, with my interpreter always close at hand, and our deaf pastor helping.



But when I finally declared them husband and wife and authorized the official kiss, as you do, it was the longest and most passionate kiss in all my wedding ceremonies!

Now our latest Brazilian sign language course, with 35 participants, will teach Alyne to sign properly and help their marriage in the long term. Please pray for the lovely EAB ministry to and with the deaf. Our annual deaf conference in July will see at least a hundred at Green Pastures for the event.

It is wonderful to show Christian love to those such as the deaf, including them in the body of Christ, sharing the Gospel with non-Christians and generally respecting them and loving them in Jesus.

Ladies of Tavares Church

Ladies at the Tavares Church had a visit from an expert team to talk to them about prevention of breast and ovarian cancer as part of a national cancer awareness campaign.

The ladies learnt how to remain healthy, the care they have to take to preserve their health, as well as learning a little about treatment and how to overcome cancer.

Such campaigns are carried out in many EAB churches as part of our integrated approach to Christianity.



THE 10 DAY EVANGELISTIC O

It was near the end of the last millennium that John Medcraft felt it on his heart to try and organize annual 10-day evangelistic outreaches so as to train the EAB/ACEV youth and to harness their zeal for God's glory.

The idea always was to evangelize very needy places deep in the interior and hit the towns or villages with a wave of youthful sharers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the first years it wasn't so easy to get a team of 50 together but today the 100 places on the team are hotly disputed!

We always borrow a government school as the team's base because January is the main holiday month in Brazil. Everyone takes their own mattress and sleeps on the floor and the precarious toilets and showers/hosepipes are made the most of! This year was the 19th edition of the 10-day Evangelistic Outreach and it was held at Curral Velho, a small town with a very poor population of 2,521 people situated about 100 miles west and slightly south of Patos.

The small EAB church there is led by a couple in their 40s called Tica and Ramos and they are doing a great job amidst somewhat aggressive medieval Catholicism and much spiritual apathy too.

The entire EAB Outreach programme now also runs 3-day weekend versions of the event each July with 30 in each team in 3 towns or villages in different areas simultaneously.

This year's 10-day event was held as usual in January and as always started with evangelism training sessions prior to hitting the streets and farmsteads. Then in the first 3 days of door-to-door evangelism the entire sleepy little town of Curral Velho was covered house to house by dividing the team into 4 teams for different areas. Some doors were slammed in our faces; others were not opened at all but some were. The Gospel was shared with these folk, Gospel tracts were left with those who read and invitations given to the street service nearby that evening. People who would accept a later visit to study the Bible with our follow-up team were carefully noted.

Thus each day had the following routine of much prayer and devotional times before God all together in the mornings and after lunch the teams hit the streets or rural areas in personal door-to-door evangelism followed by street or farmstead services at night after the evening meal.

Each team member paid £18 for their 10-day slot on the floor to sleep and food (full board and lodgings!) and the rest of the food and logistics expenses are funded by dividing up the costs around our churches with the larger churches contributing more + EAB backing.



OUTREACH AT CURRAL VELHO

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After covering the town, the following days saw the team going into the farmsteads, small villages and an ex-slave community. In all Curral Velho plus another 9 communities were evangelized. To get to some of these communities was serious business as some of the earth tracks had steep climbs and precipices alongside not for the faint hearted. The 11 mile trip to one such community was particularly hair raising and we knew that if it rained whilst we were there we wouldn't be able to return that night owing to the muddy slippery road. It didn't rain that night but the following one!

The folk from these outlying communities were so immensely grateful for our team's visits that it was moving. EAB has been working in the region for years drilling wells, setting up goat 4-Legs projects and building toilets for those without, that this has shown God's love practically and warmed their hearts to the Gospel.

In fact, at the Logradouro Community, where we drilled a well 11 years ago, 33 families still rejoice with the water and survive there because of it, and the well is so good, producing 12,000 litres of water per hour, that Council water tankers come and get water there constantly to supply the town of Curral Velho!

Thus as a result of all this dedicated personal evangelistic work plus 15 dynamic street services with great praise, dance, drama and preaching we saw 1,073 adults evangelized plus another 1,690 in the services and 184 children.

1,221 Gospel tracts were distributed as well as 27 Bibles and we saw 15 adults make personal commitments to Christ and another 3 came back to the Lord who had previously left the church.

Now please pray for the on-going follow up work caring for those who made decisions and visiting the homes of people interested in the Gospel and who agreed to have home Bible studies.

"A sower went out to sow and some seed fell by the wayside, some the birds ate, some fell on rock and amongst thorns, but some fell on good soil and yielded an excellent crop"!
(Luke 8:5-15)



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CARING FOR CREATION

The children of the church at Água Grande, together with local school pupils, set an example by clearing the rubbish from their little village because nobody else does!

Praise God for children who care! Praise God for EAB/ACEV churches that actively and regularly teach that caring for creation is an important part of being a Christian!



TEIXEIRA MOUNTAIN RANGE WELLS

Owing to the drought we have recently drilled 3 wells in the region of the Teixeira mountain range in the barren interior of north-eastern Brazil.

As locals lift the large tank onto the plinth they know that more than 200 families will be blessed with the fresh, clean water. A 4th well is under construction near Manaira and will provide water for a further 20 families.

"I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink". (Matthew 25:35)



FUNDRAISING

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We are very grateful to everyone who raised funds and awareness for us through the year.

The Christmas Gift Card Scheme raised a total of £2460 for which many people will be blessed. Thank you for your support.

If you are in the New Forest area on 27th April, Cadnam Methodist Church (SO40 2NP) will be holding a fundraising concert at 7pm.

A team from Lighthouse Community Church, Hardley, will be walking the National 3 Peaks in September, which are Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon. Kira Taylor will also be running a half marathon in May.

Don't forget you can sponsor our Schools work by making a one-off donation or weekly/monthly donation of any amount.

This is a huge blessing as we can help poor children to get a decent education, midday meal and lots of love!

Each fundraising event means we can reach many people with the Gospel and practical care.

LEGACIES

If you are interested in leaving EAB some money, or gifts, in your will please contact the treasurer (her details are on the back page) and ask for the legacy details.



Read Kira's Story

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eab-taylor

RADIO MINISTRY



John used to broadcast on local radio for 30 years, which was a blessing to people who lived in isolated farmsteads as the radio station in Patos reached a wide radius.

One day recently he travelled along a precarious 25 mile earth track to preach the Gospel at a place called Serrão, in the County of Princesa Isabel about 95 miles from Patos, when a man came up to him and said he recognised John's voice from the programmes he made on Radio Panati 35 years ago!

Pray that as the Word of God is broadcast today from 7 local radio stations, that it will have an everlasting effect on the lives of people.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget that EAB can be found on Facebook as well as Instagram. (All this is in the English language)
<https://www.facebook.com/eabrazil>
+ https://www.instagram.com/eab_brazil

Then there is EAB Director John Medcraft's most excellent blog, now 15 years old. <https://johnmedcraft.blogspot.com>

Not to be overlooked too are John's personal contributions at <https://www.facebook.com/john.p.medcraft>
+ <https://www.instagram.com/medcraftjohn>
(Translator sorts the Portuguese)

If you love nature and care about God's creation you won't want to miss Green Pastures' daily updates at <https://www.facebook.com/ReservaVerdesPastos>

Not forgetting the Patos church's live weekly transmissions of the main Sunday service at 21:30 GMT from <https://www.facebook.com/acevpatos>

To round out the collection, EAB's website <https://www.eabrazil.org> is where you can find copies of our InTouch magazine as well as an overview of EAB.

We really appreciate it when you follow, befriend, like, share or comment on any of our social media. Particularly when you share!

Make a difference
with 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.org

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!