



# inTouch

November 2019  
Edition 92

The Voice of Evangelical Action (Brazil)



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# 2 EAB/ACEV LEADERS CONFERENCE 2019

EAB's annual events schedule starts with a 10-day Evangelistic Outreach in January.

It is followed by the Carnival Camp for fun and teaching in February, then is the May General Conference for business meetings including the keynote message for the year, and then comes the September Leaders Conference for fellowship and Bible teaching.

This year's Leaders Conference was especially blessed, and it was lovely to have Board Member Marian Rashleigh with us for the entire event.

The senior leadership team arrived at Green Pastures ahead of time for extra meetings to work on alterations to our church's guidelines document which we have, and also created a new monitoring system for our churches, which local leadership teams will answer annually to help us identify problems earlier and things like this.

Then we held 3 services for teaching God's Word and held 2 short general assemblies with one for the projects and the other for the churches.

In the first service we tackled the issue of domestic violence and combatted violence against women in the light of the Bible. A few of our pastors seemed to wriggle a bit to cope with the teaching, owing to chauvinistic north-eastern Brazil tendencies, but this only went to show how appropriate the teaching was.

The second service tackled another major problem in today's society – that of the dangers of hidden digital lives, especially with reference to pornography. Our two law students, Louisa & Rayla, presented staggering statistics, horrific facts and a resounding Biblical rebuttal of it all. It was quite a session!

And so we came to our final service on the Sunday morning when I clearly felt God directing me to change the planned programme and speak instead on Psalm 51. It was one of the most beautiful services we have ever had at a Leaders Conference.

We can surely say God met with us at this Conference through His Word and by His Spirit. Many experienced pastors said it had been a decisive time in God's presence for their lives and ministries. All glory be to God! Thank you for praying and supporting.



# MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

# 3

**In September the Pastor Frank Dyer School in Patos was turned into a clinic!**

Paediatrician Nicolý Negreiros brought along four of her medical students to check the health of the children. The team spent the whole morning with over eighty children and their mothers. Each child also had their nails cut and cleaned to show them how easy it was to keep them clean.



## SCHOOL LIBRARY

This old fridge/freezer was thrown out at a rubbish tip when Pastor João George of our Imaculada Church and Action School thought it would make an ideal cupboard to house the school library. He had it taken to the church, cleaned up, decorated and it is now in use by the children.

EAB's Imaculada Action School has been open for 35 years and has had 13.5% of the town's population through its doors for free education.

## Green Pastures SCHOOL

Our small school out in the country at our Green Pastures Nature Reserve is bringing hope to children from the surrounding community.

The teacher, Jozilene, was a student of the school several years ago, went on to get a teaching degree, and is now enthusiastically teaching others to give them a real opportunity of a good education that will stand them in good stead in the future.



# BARRA DE OITIS

Barra de Oitis is a very poor community of descendants of ex-slaves who live some way away from the town of Itaporanga.

They are uneducated and so the few who manage to get road-sweeper jobs means they have very low salaries. They live in houses made from sticks and mud, though the government has started replacing a few with brick buildings. A baby who was about 1 year old was allergic to milk. Her mother had been told to buy special milk for him, but the family could not afford it, and so the boy died in March.

When Philip Medcraft (son of John and Liz) and his wife Gylmara, heard this they immediately decided to visit the village with as many relief goods that they could muster.

Gylmara contacted everyone she could think of to donate goods or cash and in a few days their vehicle was crammed full, and they drove up into the mountains to deliver them. The team distributed 22 sacks of staple foods, and 14 infant feeding kits, as well as clothing and toys. One thing that brightened Gylmara's heart was when she gave a sack of food to an elderly man. His face lit up and he told her he now had something he could share with others in need.

They visited the house of the deceased child and saw the decrepit state of the wood and mud walls, with the roof made up of an assortment of materials.

On the mud floor was another child, Eric, who the mother said was 3 years old, but it looked as if he was one-year-old. His skin was stretched across his bones and was severely malnourished. He did not make any effort to talk or walk. The father was an alcoholic and the mother seemed to be very vague about everything and were both apathetic about the situation.

One day Gylmara collected Eric and mother at 6am and drove them to Patos so the boy could see a doctor at 9am. The doctor had some test done but she was not sure if the boy had something physically wrong with him or if his parents had never encouraged him to walk. In all of this the mother showed no sign of emotion.

On a return visit to the doctor the mother was told that the scans showed nothing was physically wrong with the boy but he was seriously malnourished and that's why he never walked. The mother did not seem to understand that Eric needed food other than milk. Gylmara bought some multi-vitamin capsules and urged the mother to give him one a day.

On a recent visit to Barra de Oitis we asked to see Eric and we were all in for a shock! His happy mother brought him to us and as she sat down the plump lad slid off her lap and stood, looking around him, taking an interest in all he saw! It was an amazing transformation and one we thank God for.

It is hard to believe such low levels of poverty exist in the middle of the 21st century, but these situations have become commonplace in such hard-to-reach isolated regions, made worse by the scarcity of rain causing severe drought.



# SANITATION PROJECT

# 5

We have been working in Barra de Oitis for several years as the poverty was unbelievable.

First we drilled a well and gave the 140 families good drinking water. Then we continued helping them with chickens and goats to give them food and the ability to sell some of their excess produce.

Family toilets were simply a curtained area in the back garden containing a piece of wood to stand on and relieve oneself on, and a can of water to pour over oneself as a shower.

Now, with help from partners, we are helping them through the Sanitation Project where we are building permanent bathrooms containing a water tank in the roof, and inside a flush toilet, wash hand basin and a shower. Attached to the outside are two sinks, with running water, so they can wash their clothes and cooking pots in relative comfort. With no sewage system we have dug 2 cess pits for each bathroom which will deal with the waste.

We have already completed 17 bathrooms with 2 more being built. Although they cost about £1,250 to build they are priceless to the families as their privacy means a lot, especially to the women.

Where possible we have helped them turn their garden into small market gardens, giving them a wheelbarrow, tools, seeds and training. This greatly improves their diet and together with a proper bathroom their health is dramatically improving. To compliment this the ladies have also been taught crafts and cooking skills in the hope that it will all lead to improve the quality of life by promoting income generation and self-esteem.



# 6 MANAIRA WELL AND THE GOSPEL

**When a new well is to be inaugurated John always holds a thanksgiving service with the projects team and the community.**

Thus one Friday he set off with a group from the church for Baixo dos Campos Community in rural Manairá travelling along rough roads. When they arrived they found it had rained the previous night, as well as raining during the Gospel service which they held. It is always a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel with the community.

John closed the service with a talk on 'Caring for the Environment' when he showed some of his photos of wildlife. He gathered the team and left as soon as he could because there was a river to cross.

By the time he got there the river was flowing fast. Already a lot of school buses were lined up unable to cross, but John was able to switch on the vehicle's 4-wheel drive, and so was able to continue on his journey home.



## HAPPY EASTER



On Good Friday morning 23 Christians from the Patos Church handed out 500 tracts to drivers who had to stop at the traffic lights outside.

The team then went to the Market and handed tracts out to the stall holders, wishing them a Happy Easter. The group went back to the church and after prayer Pastor Jose Lucena brought a message about the importance of having a prayer life. It was a morning of blessings!

## BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM

The EAB/ACEV church in the sprawling village of Vazante in Diamante County has outgrown their building, so now members have been saving money to buy bricks so they can build their own 2-storey church.

With the foundations firmly built on rock they have the walls up, and are now saving to get the roof on. When the lower room was completed and being used for mid-week meetings the local school asked if they could use it during the day as they had run out of classrooms. Pastor Nezinho Abílio readily agreed so a half-built church is already serving the community in more ways than one.



# FUNDRAISING

EAB wants to say a big thank you to all the people who have supported EAB faithfully in prayer and in giving through the years. With your continuous help we have been able to accomplish much to share the Gospel to those in need both physically and spiritually.

We are also grateful to those who have been fundraising for us over the last 6 months including Cadnam Methodist Church (concert), and Jean North (concert of her pupils in Basingstoke).

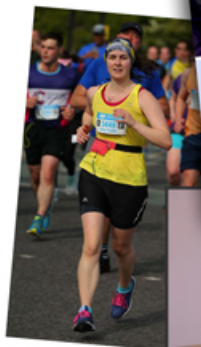
We are also grateful to Kira Taylor (and all her sponsors) who ran the Southampton Half Marathon (along with her father and EAB chairman Roy Dyer) - and raised over £500 for the work & projects of the Mission. Not only that, she joined 7 others from Lighthouse Community Church, Hardley, who completed the 3-Peaks climb - the highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales.

They did not have lovely clear weather but were soaked by heavy rain, cold through a sudden drop in temperature and extremely tired owing to sleepless nights camping in wet tents on uneven ground. Special thanks to Trustee, Jamie James, who not only did the climbing but drove the van so they could get to the next peak! This raised about £2,000.

Don't forget you can sponsor our schools by making a one-off donation or weekly/monthly donations of any amount. This is a huge blessing as we can help children to get a decent education and break the chain of poverty that runs through their families.

## 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.



# 7

## Food for Body and Soul

The Soup/Food Run Project team continues to serve the hungry in Patos.

They recently visited the slum neighbourhood of Cangote do Urubu (The Vulture's Neck!) and distributed 200 sandwiches and 60 evangelistic leaflets. Please pray that that these soup/food runs will not just feed their bodies but their souls as well.

## MISSIONS DAY

On Mission Day Elizabeth spoke to about 100 children at EAB's Action School in Patos about the historic moments of the mission including many of her own experiences with her father in Brazil as a child, and the testimonies of those whose lives were transformed by the love of God.

It was a time of gratitude for the lives of the founders who dedicated their lives to preach the Gospel in the Brazilian outback and a challenge to the children to carry on the work.

(Our Mission Day in Brazil is September 2nd when our founders first arrived in Brazil)

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# CONSECRATION

This September we were at one of our churches in Joao Pessoa for the consecration of Alexandra Oliveira officially recognizing her as a church leader. The church had started over a decade ago when she and her husband started an Action School in the slums area, and from this a church plant was started.

Several pastors gathered at the service and prayed for Alexandra, along with the members and visitors. It was a joyful and emotional service as the members rejoiced with her, and sang their hearts out in praise to God!



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](mailto:eabfinance@gmail.com) giving brief details of the donation. Donations can be made online at [www.eabrazil.org](http://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!