



# inTouch

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The Voice of Evangelical Action (Brazil)

**ACTION SCHOOLS**  
Page 3

**CARNIVAL CAMP**  
Page 4

**DESERT FLOWER  
PROJECT**  
Page 6



# 2 EVANGELISM IN IBIARA

About 90 youth from several of our churches gave up 10 days of their holidays to join the 20th missionary event in the city of Ibiara.

Living in a school with very limited resources of comfort and cleanliness they prayed and sang their way through the mission so they could make a difference to the people who live there. Each evening there were services where the Gospel was shared through praise, dance, theatre and sharing the Word of God.

A doctor and a psychologist joined some of the team one day to accompany them to visit people in the nearby communities of Barra de Oitis and Vazante who rarely would see a doctor. Another team went to the town of Conceição and evangelized door-to-door. They shared the Gospel and held a service in the evening.

On the last day they had a day of social action when they cut hair, filed and painted nails and provided medical tests before the final Gospel service which was full of praise, testimonies and the Word of God.

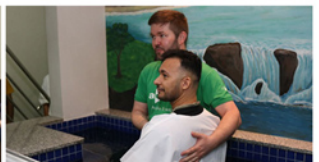
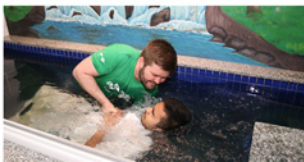
Throughout the 10 days about 20 people made a decision to follow Jesus so now there is the follow-up work by local pastors to build them up in the faith.



## BAPTISMAL SERVICE

The Patos Church started the year with a baptismal service when 3 men were baptised – Leudo, Murilo & Orlando. Murilo came to Christ through Bible study group at his school run by youngsters from our church. Leudo came to the Lord through our Deaf Fellowship and Orlando is first-fruit of the job creation project. Trying to earn some money he asked Liz if he could cut her small patch of grass. He started cutting it with a pair of scissors!

Liz, seeing the need for a Job Creation Project, lent him some money to buy proper gardening tools and he set up his own business, quickly paying back his loan. The business is now thriving, a big difference from his scissors days!



# ACTION SCHOOLS

## Making A Difference In Education

3

With EAB's Action Schools Project now totally revamped and upgraded we rejoice at the hundreds of extremely poor children we are able to minister to educationally, spiritually and socially.

Being a shoe-string Mission we depend on donations from churches and individuals to be able to maintain this vital work and we hope and pray to expand it this year.

To support this work and to receive more information about it please contact Marian Rashleigh (contact details on back page).

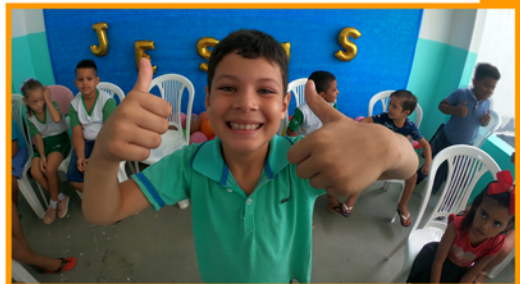
We hold training days when we gather all teachers and church leaders from our 16 Action Schools to go over the principles which govern the work we do, the high standards we must always maintain, improving reporting techniques to enable us to monitor better each school's progress, etc.

We seek to give poor children a meal a day, help with their very low standard regular government school work, to encourage children to genuinely learn and enjoy learning, and lead children up to year 5, to a living faith in Jesus Christ.

What a joy it was to hear recently about one of our ex-Action School children who today is a bank manager, and another who is a worship ministry leader in his church and RE teacher in his town! On the other hand, as we don't just tell the success stories, we pray for another ex-EAB Action School child who is living in promiscuity, has been involved in the drug culture and has been in jail twice.

However he at least is back in church now and we pray for God in His love and mercy to change his life! Praise God for the great team we have.

Please pray for this fantastic project.



### EXTRA LESSONS AT PATOS SCHOOL

One Saturday in March the Action School in Patos gave the children a talk on the symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) in a language they could understand.

They learnt that hand washing throughout the day was very important in preventing its spread.

# THE 41st CARNIVAL CAMP

Once a year the Carnival Camp is held at Green Pastures, as an alternative for the youth and their families to the raucous carnival in town.

This year the camp was enjoyed by 221 adults, youths and children who came to share fellowship, teaching and praise and worship. This year's theme was 'Spirituality', focusing on the essential nature of our daily devotional times with God, and the positive effects this has on our daily Christian lives and ministries, and many were greatly blessed of God.

Many re-consecrated their lives to God and committed themselves to spending more time privately with God in prayer, fasting, worship and Bible meditation.

The praise and worship was greatly blessed as always. Our church band is extremely good. We have decided to work more on the up and coming generations of musicians and band members, so we have kicked off initiatives to get a 'kids band' and a 'teens band' going for God.

As part of the camp there were also leisure activities – the swimming pool was put to great use and there was also table tennis and volleyball, and for the less active there were domino competitions throughout the camp over the four days.

There was even an 'Opportunity Knocks' style afternoon and many took part from little children to seniors. It was lovely to see people taking part and developing their talents.

Our sincerest thanks to those who contributed to make it possible for poorer folk/families to be there. These were very important inputs into their lives spiritually and fellowship-wise also.

So praise God for a lovely balanced and blessed Camp and thanks very much for all your prayers and support.



## DIAMANTE CARNIVAL CAMP

Owing to the growth of the work and numbers wanting to attend the Carnival Camp at Green Pastures, this year churches some distance away were encouraged to hold their own Camps in their own area.

Churches in Diamante County held their own this year and 3 non-Christians also went along and ended up getting converted!



# SILENT EVANGELISM

# 5

At the end of November we had a completely new and unheard of opportunity to evangelize, without hardly opening our mouths!

In recognition of EAB's work in helping the poor the large central and original supermarket in Patos asked us if we would like to ask people for their loose change as they left the place, as a contribution to our projects? They said they would give us the free run of the place, as long as we were discreet, but we would need to have a team in action for 7 days, non-stop from 7am to 9pm!

At first it seemed impossible as everyone works, but we talked to the church and felt God was opening this door, and so we drew up a plan of action for a week of silent evangelism and started drawing up lists of volunteer church members who could do a few hours at different times of the day. We decided that we would all wear green 'Evangelical Action' T-shirts, and produced leaflets for distribution.

What happened that week was astounding and we thank God for His blessing! We evangelized thousands of people, many actually came to talk to us and ask questions, and much fruit has come from it. We raised £2,000 by the end of the week for projects, but what was more important was the one to one contact we had with so many people.

God was glorified through this amazing week of urban evangelism we had never dreamed could be possible, and by the end of the week the church was really ablaze as a result of the move of God's Spirit. I don't think the supermarket will ever be the same again!



## The Love of God in Action



A few days before Christmas a queue started outside the Patos church. By 7am the queue snaked around the church with mothers, from poor low income families, holding onto the ticket that was to enable them to get a Christmas parcel of food at the Patos Church. The team started the day with prayer for the life of each family and for the various partners who had donated goods for the event. Altogether 465 parcels (in reusable eco-bags to preserve the environment) and 200 toys were joyfully distributed through the day.

John said "The Church must proclaim and practice Christianity. The Church has to make God's love tangible to the poor. I don't even want to know if the people who received the food and toys today were catholic or evangelical. We wanted to tell these people that God loved them so much that he sent Jesus to save them on the first Christmas and that God still loves them today. Jesus, is the joy of Christmas!"

# 6 DESERT FLOWER PROJECT

The Flor do Sertão Project has spent a lot of time in Fonseca, a village in Manaíra district, where descendants of ex-slaves live.

Life is a struggle for them but gradually their lives are changing with the help of Evangelical Action Brazil.

Living conditions are tough for everyone, but especially for females, so the men were asked to attend a talk giving the Christian viewpoint on "The Family and Domestic Violence" to make family life a happier place. That has made a big difference.

There is extremely little work for people in the poor village, so the Flor do Sertão team have been training men in making furniture and agriculture, and the women in crafts and baking, with the intention to improve their quality of life by promoting income generation.

At the end of the courses a Thanksgiving Service was held when certificates were issued with much gratitude as it was the first certificates the people had ever received.



# FUNDRAISING

## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT EAB

With the on-going world financial situation, we are very grateful for all churches and individuals who faithfully support the work of EAB in Brazil's north-eastern interior as in recent times things have not been easy.

We thank those too who do special extra fundraising activities to help us make ends meet for God's glory and for the benefit of our fellow man. Such extras recently raised over £3,000 through the Christmas Gifts Scheme.

Someone else sells items by auction (the auctioneer generously does not charge for his services as the money is for a charity), and she also sells used designer clothes to a specialist shop in Winchester. Another supporter sells Christmas Cards and donates the proceeds, while some people decide not to send Christmas Cards and donate the money to EAB instead.

Another supporter works occasionally at the local hospital and donates her earnings. Jean S. and her friends make crafts and sell them at craft fayres. A firm which has been sold has donated their free gifts (pig money boxes and pens) which people are happy to buy as every penny helps! One young man throws all his small change into large jars and from time to time takes it to a machine which changes it into notes which he sends to EAB.

The Ladies Conference at Millbrook Christian Centre in Southampton recently raised £900 to buy wheelchairs for those who need them. Lyndsey Rollo from Scotland went to visit the work in Brazil and is fundraising right now, not to forget Cadnam Methodist Church's annual charity concert.

How can you raise some funds in a special way for EAB? Don't forget you can sponsor EAB's Action Schools as well as support EAB's vital general fund which is the strategic core of the Mission, distributing funds as most needed to missionary ministries around the churches and villages, wide-ranging projects and so many surprise needs which crop up in the work almost daily.

**May God bless you as you support and pray for all this.**



## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

**The Soup Project continues to serve the poorer communities in and around Patos.**

About once a week the team buys the ingredients for the soup, spends the afternoon preparing it and then goes out to distribute it.

This gives a wonderful opportunity to talk to people, hand out tracts and pray for them when asked. It is also a reminder to the people they serve that they are not forgotten but loved by God, "I was hungry, and you fed me".



## 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.

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[www.eabrazil.org](http://www.eabrazil.org)

## JATOBA EVANGELISM

Every Saturday the youth from the Patos Church go to Jatoba, a poor district where we have our Pastor Frank Dyer School. The team visit homes near to the school during the afternoon inviting people to the evening service and returning later if a pastoral visit is requested.

In the evening the road is cleared and an open air service is held, with the children doing the Bible readings and choreography. It is so encouraging to see local people coming to hear the Word of God and understand how they can apply it to their lives.



# 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 - Account Name: Evangelical Action Brazil  
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!