



*Owing to the current circumstances we have decided to make a 4-page InTouch this time, but we trust that you enjoy it just the same.*

# Baking In Fonseca

We don't just feed people, but give them the tools to help themselves. One such example is at the Fonseca Community in Manaíra.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic and all the difficulty brought by it, the women came to the church building for lessons in baking, cake decorating, hairstyling and entrepreneurship techniques. Such community teaching restores dignity, improves diets and provides income for those who make food for sale.



Jenilda dos Santos took part in the women's Desert Flower Project. She has shared her gratitude for the cookery and bakery lessons the group has been receiving. She says how happy she is, together with the other participants, for having been taught how to make bread. She said "We learnt to make home-made bread having been taught by Pastor João George. We loved how patient and polite he was with us and how he encouraged us to try... and it worked. Nobody had ever taught us how to make bread or cakes or savoury tasty treats. It is so good!"

*God's love can be demonstrated in different ways!*

# Market Gardens

Our main emphasis is always on helping the poor help themselves, and the Market Garden Project is a good example of this. We help poor folk set up productive gardens behind their little houses with wire netting fencing. We train them and kit them out with tools and seeds. They end up producing lettuce, cabbage, paw-paw, bananas, coriander etc. which gives them a good means of income.

These are safe activities in these times of pandemic. With the 2 Wings Project and the 4-Legs Project we help the poor with hens or a goat so they can improve their diet as well as be able to sell eggs and milk. These things are such a blessing to them.



# Venezuelan Refugees

João Pessoa is a large city on the Atlantic Coast, the state capital of Paraíba.

It is a holiday destination for many people with its long sandy beaches, handcraft shops and many restaurants and hotels. EAB has had a church here for several years which continually reaches out into the different communities.

However, there is a new community that has recently arrived – Venezuelan immigrants fleeing the growing poverty in their own country.

The church has been helping the people with their basic needs by inviting one person from each of 23 families to come and collect food parcels. The distribution was done this way to avoid a large group gathering as we have limited resources. It was good to be able to pray with this group before they returned to their accommodation. Photos were not taken of the refugees so as not to get them in trouble with the authorities, as they arrived illegally in Brazil.

Since this was written Brazil has decided to recognise Venezuelans as refugees, and they estimate that about 224,000 Venezuelans are currently living in the country. An average of 500 Venezuelans continue to cross into Brazil every day. Some are being housed in empty residential schools as shown in the picture above.

# Life Changing Event

One of the many people to receive an emergency food parcel during this difficult time was Mr A. He was a non-Christian who lives in poverty in Bara de Oitis, an isolated community of descendants of African slaves.

His home is simply made from sticks covered in mud, with a compacted mud floor. The house has no toilet, no bathroom and no piped water, so there are extremely few hygienic conditions. The home has no secure cupboards to put food in so to protect it from the ever present rats he and his wife store it in two cotton bags which they suspend from the low roof beams.

Mr A. and his blind and epileptic wife live in abject poverty, their only income being the Government handout of £11 a month. It was decided to build another of our toilet/shower units in their back garden – they had never lived in a house with a toilet before! It is an oval-shaped concrete building containing a flush toilet, shower and basin inside with a larger basin outside where they can wash clothes with plenty of running water. Two cesspits deal with any waste. We have built this unit with a ramp and a wider door than usual as his wife may have to use a wheelchair at some point. They are overjoyed at what they call "a dream come true". It is very sad that desperately poor people have to have dreams like having a toilet! This toilet/shower now serves a little group of 8 families and houses previously completely without.

As often happens people want to know why Christians have helped them when there is little help from their own government – this opens the way to be able to share about the way Jesus wants us to live our lives. After hearing about Jesus, and their need of a Saviour, Mr A. and his wife dedicated their lives to Christ.

This is one of the many families which have received food parcels from EAB's Social team, in partnership with Tearfund, in Barra de Oitis. Poverty is rife because there is so little work in the area while Covid-19 is making matters worse as food locally is scarce. He sent a lovely message of thanks, expressing his gratitude for our food bank supplies to the community in these dark days.

*There is still so much to do to help people such as these. Thank you for your prayers and support.*



## COVID-19

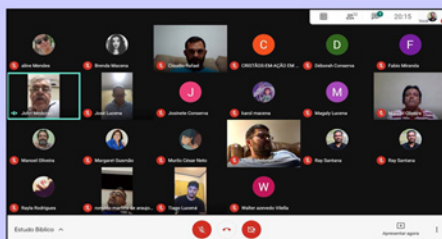
**The Coronavirus has made everyone change the way they worship.**

Several of our churches have used computers and mobiles to bring the Word of God to their members for many months as churches were closed.

Throughout the pandemic the church has continued with all their meetings on-line, such as services, bible studies, prayer meetings, children's, youth, men's, ladies and older person's meetings, etc., so everyone can join in when still at home. Even the deaf have 6 meetings a week where sign-language is used on-line.

In Brazil now, churches are allowed to open providing people wear face masks, and there is social distancing of 1.5 metres, but over 60s are not allowed to go. This means that John and Liz, nor their older members, can go to church, though John still preaches on-line from his home. Co-pastor Philip (John and Liz's son) is now living in England, so the services in Patos Church are being led by newly-appointed assistant pastor, Rafael, who was pastor at one of our smaller churches at Juazeirinho. A couple from Soledade will take over the pastorate at Juazeirinho.

We value your prayers for Rafael and these new phases in the Patos and Juazeirinho church.



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# FUNDRAISING

All our fundraising activities were brought to a standstill when Covid-19 arrived. This has meant we have completely used up our reserves, and we are not able to serve the people of north-east Brazil as we have done for so many years. By God's grace, we have been able to help the families of all our school children with food parcels, and continued with some of the projects, but with more regular standing orders in the General Fund we can do much more as this helps us even out the peaks and troughs each month.

Accompanying this edition of InTouch are copies of the Christmas Gift Scheme. Perhaps you could order some items as Christmas presents for special friends and family? You will receive a card for each gift you order, to give to your friends and family so they know what has been donated to bless those in great need. It would be wonderful if we could break all records for the Gift Scheme (last year was £3,583) so please share the forms with others.

Photocopies will be honoured, as will orders emailed to: [missionmr@ntlworld.com](mailto:missionmr@ntlworld.com) when the correct finance is sent through the bank to our account at Lloyds Bank, Evangelical Action Brazil,  
Sort Code: 30-91-85  
Acc No: 02385564



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 / Acc No: 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!

LEGACIES: If you are interested in leaving EAB some money, or gifts, in your will please contact Beryl and ask for the legacy details.