



inTouch

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The Voice of Evangelical Action (Brazil)



EAB's 4-Legs Project Distribution

Pastor Robério, is the leader of our projects team, started to buy some goats over a few weeks in September as he was planning to take them to very poor areas to distribute. He set off with Pastor Lindon Carlos at first light with a stop at Sítio Sabonete II where they met with the local pastor, Maésio and his wife Fia, and the first animals were received with much joy.

We always take the opportunity to give Bibles to the new owners of the goats so that they can read about the love of God for themselves.

The second stop was at the community of Antonio Ferreira, where several people have already come to the Lord, and where Pastor Leandro from the Juazeirinho church holds a weekly meeting. The recipients were so happy as the goats represent their hope for the future out of poverty as they can breed from them as well as being able to get their milk to give to their family, which improves their health.

Next they went to São Vicente do Seridó. Here the leader of our church is an excellent woman called Maria das Dores. She took the team to the Boa Vista rural community where once again goats and Bibles were distributed. By this time the animals still on top of the truck needed to be given baths to cool them down.

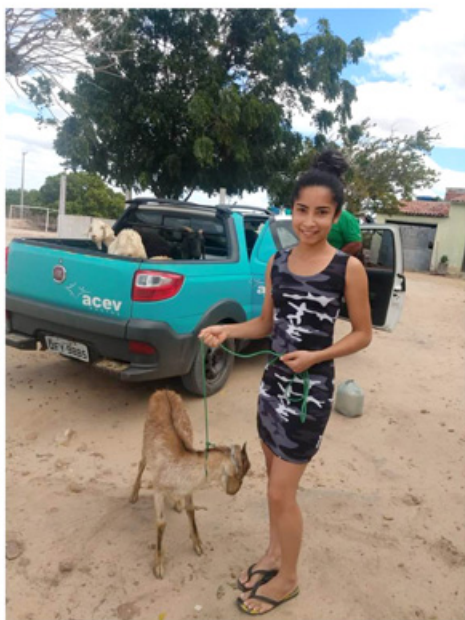
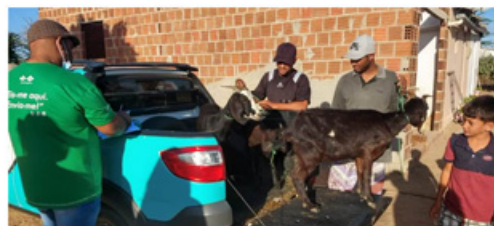
Finally the team drove on again to Portelo Community in the County of Puxinanã which was about another hour and a half drive south east, and were met at late afternoon by local Pastor Sílvio and his wife Silvânia. The team drove on to Campina Grande to sleep, after a journey of 720 km (447 miles).

All our projects are church-based and so a day like yesterday, distributing goats, sheep and Bibles, just highlights the wonderful way the Gospel is being spread to villages and towns in north-eastern Brazil.

All the indications for people to receive goats were made by our local leaders who know the people.

We thank you for your prayers and for the practical ways you support our projects which demonstrate to the poor the love of God. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan the priest and Levite walked by on the other side of the road, but it was the Samaritan who stopped, cared and paid for the wounded man's needs.

EAB, with your help, seeks to live out this parable in the real world of north-eastern Brazilian poverty.



Evangelism in Flores

Pastor Nemias and his wife, Fátima, have resumed evangelism in the country areas around Flores in Pernambuco State where they live.

They felt that the pandemic has improved enough to permit open-air services so they put loudspeakers on the top of their car, so they could drive to farming communities and hold open-air services.

In the picture Pastor Nemias is in the green shirt with a Bible in one hand and a microphone in the other. Flores was the town the EAB's first missionaries arrived at in the interior.

They had travelled from Garanhuns on a lorry laden high with raw cotton, and stopped at Flores as that was as far as the lorry was going. They moved to the nearest town, Princesa Isabel, where they established a church and set up the first HQ of EAB in 1940. Flores church has a well-established school for their under-privileged children which is well attended, and enjoyed by the children.



PROJECT NEWS

Our project team has presented to me 5 families at Barra de Oitis village that all meet our selection criteria so as to be apt to receive chicken runs with chickens from our 2-Wings Project. We have funding for 4 of these families. The selection process takes time but is vital to make sure we are dealing with genuine cases of the poorest of the poor.

Yesterday saw a classic example of the need for care with choosing project beneficiaries. Our head-teacher at our Patos school got into a state of panic because two of our pupils had moved with their families into cardboard shacks on the outskirts of town "because they couldn't afford to pay the rent for their tiny houses". Liz insisted with the teacher that the story was properly checked with visits made to the cardboard houses etc. Thus it was discovered, as Liz had suspected, that the families had in fact opted to live in this precarious way so as to qualify for council housing.

On the other hand another shanty town dweller has been checked out and seen to be a genuine case where a donkey and cart (£100) will help the family to help themselves through rubbish collection and recycling, so we will help.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES DURING

The years 2020 and 2021 have proven to be very challenging, to put it mildly.

This was made worse in Brazil than many places, because our President Bolsonaro refused to care for the people and only wanted to care for the economy.

This denial approach to the pandemic backfired because with widespread illness, and 600,000 deaths, no economy can flourish. Nevertheless Bolsonaro's support base stood with their leader refusing to get vaccinated in the process.

Who saved Brazil from a worse fate were the State Governors as they closed down shops, churches etc. and created political pressure to force the government to vaccinate the people.

Our church in Patos had long broadcast our Sunday services via the internet, but now of course all our churches had to follow suit. We have held our leaders' conference online too as has been the case with all our church services and fellowship groups.

As the vaccination programme started to have a positive effect, and lowered the daily death rate from 4,000 to 500, our churches were allowed to open again with social distancing and everyone wearing masks.

This has of course meant people have had to book seats as we can't get everyone in owing to the spaces between people, but we have strictly stuck to the rules of law. However, some churches have flouted the law which is a disgrace and we have even lost members to such places.

The Covid pandemic means that our churches have resorted to open-air services when and where possible and our Green Pastures church has come into its own because the meeting hall is covered but totally open.

In October we will be having a Men's Christian Conference there organized by our Campina Grande churches and we have regular Saturday night services there with the local church.

Our Flores church has now re-started rural open-air evangelism with a loudspeaker on the roof of their vehicle linked to the car battery.



COVID-19

by John Medcraft

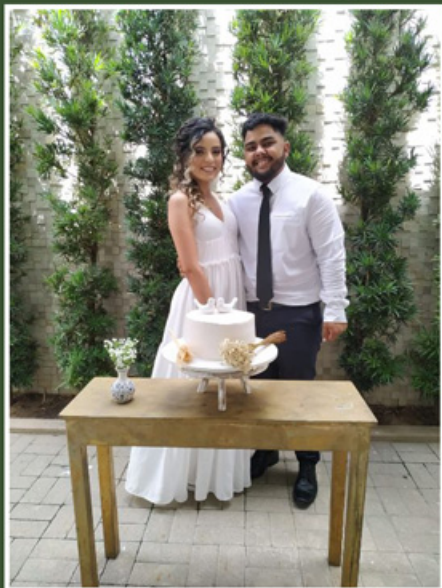
Our social action projects have also pressed forward despite the pandemic. We have fed the hungry on a large scale and have drilled a well successfully, distributed dozens of goats, built toilet/shower units and set up chicken runs and market gardens.

We have also trained women to bake bread and to make and ice cakes.

So things are now far better than they were here in north-east Brazil but we are not out of the woods yet. We continue to trust the Lord for His blessing and protection at all times and thank everyone for their prayers and support.



Online Wedding



Owing to Coronavirus it was impossible to marry a lovely couple in the Patos church so John was asked to marry them online!

Brenda, a young woman from our Patos church was marrying Victor from one of our Campina Grande churches. They were able to meet, together with Brenda's sister and mother and our worker Lila with their closest relatives, in the Patos church's garden at 9am.

Then they went before a judge online and did the legal part and then at 10am they came online for John to conduct the Christian ceremony.

The judge had a long line of couples getting married one after the other and as Brenda and Victor were way down the list they had to wait for their turn so it was 11.30am before the legalities were completed and the service could take place.

Being online it meant that Philip Medcraft was able to also take part from England as he had been Brenda's youth pastor. It was a time of great happiness for the union of the couple.

Saco dos Pintos Well

People who live in the north-east of Brazil have to endure a drought for at least 6 months of the year between rainy seasons.

Lakes and rivers dry up and people may have to walk miles to fetch water from a muddy reservoir which is also fast disappearing.

That is why there was great celebrations in the village of Saco dos Pintos near Princesa Isabel when a well we had drilled hit water.

People know when they see the jet of water spurt up it is a sign of life for themselves, their crops and their cattle and goats. Before we can let them use it for drinking we have to test it, and then build a water tower and put water pipes and taps nearby for them to use.

It is so easy then to tell them about Jesus, the Saviour, who gives living water and that if they drink it they will never thirst again (John4:13).



Mother's Day

Teachers at the Campina Grande - Catolé's Action School wanted to make Mother's Day special during the pandemic so decided they would fill bags with food and hold a special meeting at the church. They appealed for volunteers to help with the event and were amazed when lots of donations came in too, as well as gifts for mothers/guardians. Everyone really joined in and came together to make the event into a real party. The Youth & Child Praise Ministry started the celebration, and the volunteers made the afternoon really special for the families, which resulted in much happiness, peace, surprises and proclamation of the Gospel!



Market Garden in Belém

At Belém Village in Tavares County over 50 tree seedlings plus all the equipment were delivered for the setting up of a new market garden project which is now well under way.

The family of Fernando and Sandra are very grateful for everything as they now have the means to grow their own fruit and vegetables for their family and to sell any excess.

This project is a classic example of 'helping people to help themselves' producing income with dignity through their own hard work.

Participants of the market garden project receive specialist advice from an agricultural expert, and can also take advantage of our online WhatsApp group to share photos, questions etc.

This online group is very popular with all our market garden people.



The Baking Pastor

Pastor João George is the assistant pastor at our Imaculada church up in the mountains. He is also an Action School teacher. He is also very good at cooking, and at teaching cooking and has done excellent work teaching women to cook at Fonseca slave-descendent community in Manaira County.

The aim in this project is to in this way teach women to make bread or bake and decorate cakes so that these things generate income for their families. A few weeks ago he was at another slave-descendent community at Barra de Oitis in Diamante County, teaching a new group of very poor women how to make bread and cakes, and it was a great success. It is so good to see extremely poor women treated with respect through such projects as this one, as well as increasing their income.

The project is important to be continued as it restores dignity to very poor women and teaches them ways to create their own income. The project's name 'Desert Flower' is very fitting as our aim is to make women flourish in difficult circumstances.



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FUNDRAISING

All our fundraising activities were brought to a standstill when Covid-19 arrived which meant to keep serving the people of north-east Brazil we had to use up our reserves. By God's grace supporters responded and we can now do so much more to alleviate the problems of poverty.

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 so please share the forms with others.

Photocopies will be honoured, as will orders emailed to 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 Acct number: 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 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!

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