



The Importance of Evangelism

The missionary event promoted by the Action Church at Catolé, that went to Sítio Caróá and surrounding communities in the Paraíba sertão, is a living expression of God's love in action. For two days, a group of 50 volunteers were willing to step out of their comfort zone to take the Gospel message to those who often lack constant access to the Word of God.

This initiative goes beyond just a visit: it is a mission with eternal purpose. Evangelizing the people is sowing hope in a soil that, despite the difficulties, is fertile to receive the Good News.

To take spiritual support, prayers, praise, arts, ministries and, often, even material help, represents the fulfillment of Christ's commandment: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This action promotes the transformation of lives, strengthening of faith, and spiritual renewal for both the recipient and the donor.

This type of mission also strengthens the unity of the church, awakens new vocations, and teaches about the value of compassion, service, and obedience to God's call. In places like these desert communities, every smile, every prayer and every word of faith can ignite a light where there was once spiritual darkness.



José Paulino and Luiza

Liz and John were on their way home from meetings and called into Manaira to visit an 85-year-old couple who originally were members of the Caróá church. They are called José Paulino and Luiza, and still run a little convenience shop which they started 35 years ago after borrowing money from EAB's Income Generation Project.

Liz ran this financial lending scheme to allow people, who they knew, to start their own businesses, such as a perfumery, a telephone for a motorbike taxi, etc.

The couple have 14 children, one of whom is Pastor Francinaldo of EAB's Manaira Church.



Mother's Day

All our schools have different ways of expressing their love to their mothers on their special day. At Patos there was a special meeting outside of the school during the afternoon. The children danced and sang for their mothers and presented them with flowers they had made from coloured paper. The celebration finished with mothers having a delicious bowl of fruit.



Another Bathroom

One quarter of the Brazilian population do not have basic sanitation, and this is worse in the north and northeast. This means 53.8m people live in insanitary conditions with the risk of serious infections.

This is why we are building these basic bathrooms where we have a constant supply of water.

Currently we are building one in the Tamanduá Community at the house of Damião and Josefa Rufino. You can see how poor they are by their stick and mud home.



In the town of Matureia we have a church and school which has 263 pupils.

They recently received an award for excellence from the town council, and also have received a 'Best of the Year' award as chosen by the general public.

In Brazil "Orange May" is a nationwide campaign focused on combating child sexual abuse and exploitation. The campaign uses the orange coloured Gerbera flower as its symbol to raise awareness. The movement is a national initiative to highlight the issue and fight against the problem.

Pastor Renilson's wife, Getiane spoke at a school assembly tactfully explaining to the children how to avoid abusive touches, and teaching them to tell their mum or their teacher if anyone is abusively bothering them. It was a very good talk, fruit of her wide experience working with children.

The children then went on a walk through the town with banners and orange balloons. It was an important moment of awareness, reaffirming the church's commitment to defending and protecting children.

Protecting is an act of love, and the church plays an essential role in our mission.



Clothing Sale

One of the ways the Patos church helps the poor is to hold clothing jumble sales. These are very popular as for a small price people can get some lovely clothes for the whole family. At the Pastor Frank Dyer School in the Jatobá area of Patos many volunteers held a sale with the proceeds going towards the construction of the school's new sports court. Many volunteers from the church ran the event and also made a "rubacão" and sold it for £1.50 per portion. This is a north-eastern Brazilian dish made with rice, beans, sausage meat and cheese.

If you want the Rubacão recipe you can find it, together with a video on how to make it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8u8G_MCeBc



Children's Holiday Special

One Saturday afternoon the Patos church held a special children's service called the Children's Holiday Special (EBF). It was lovely to see the children dancing and singing praises to the Lord and hearing the Gospel declared loud and clear. The theme of the 2-hour special was 'Salt & Light' from Matthew 5.



AUTISM

Our church leaders in Imaculada were so concerned that most people have no idea about autism, which affects some children in the town, that they arranged a special meeting one evening.

They invited church members, parents of their Action School children, and education and health professionals, to hear Sister Maria Ramos (from the Matureia church) who is a specialist for autism in children. It was a time of information and reflection and has raised awareness, and emphasized their commitment as a church to those with autism.



Church Planting

For 13 years we have held outreach services in the small town of Ipueira in the State of Rio Grande do Norte.

Led by Deacon Dedé the services, held in the open-air in the streets, have seen 5 souls come to know and love Jesus.

Please pray for this work in the coming year as we seek to focus more on its growth.

Please pray for missionary Guilherme Santos who will be moving to Diamante to lead the church plant there.

Our Juazeirinho church, led by Pastor Leandro, has just started a new work in the rural area of Sussuarana where they held a blessed inaugural service.

Please pray for this church plant together with another church plant which this church has at the Sítio Antonio Ferreira which is also in a farming area. There is also a new church plant underway at the Vila Rajada in the municipality of Tavares.



New Sports Ground

There is a new initiative at our Pastor Frank Dyer Action School on Monday evenings. Children, and former pupils who are now teenagers, are being encouraged to spend Monday evenings on the land at the back of the school for physical education and football workshops. Not only will this improve the health of the children but encourage self-care through sports. It will cost a lot to improve the dry, dusty field to a good standard, and for them to get the right equipment they need.

To help with this they have already held a jumble sale but are looking at other ways to raise funds.



Pray for RAIN

With the small amount of rainfall that we received this rainy season our wells are in deep trouble.

For when we have normal rains this raises the underground water levels which hasn't happened this year. This year's rainy season was the worst for 10 years. The Green Pastures lake is bone dry, and for our 3-day youth conference last month, we were totally dependent on our 2 wells for showers, toilets, cooking, cleaning, etc. for 250 people.

Our main well burnt out its submersible electric pump owing to the low water level and we had to replace it. Then our secondary well pump burnt out and we needed to replace it too, as we needed both wells for the large crowd of youth. We had to buy a lorry-load of fresh water for drinking and cooking this filled our clean water cistern at Green Pastures, so the meetings went ahead as scheduled.



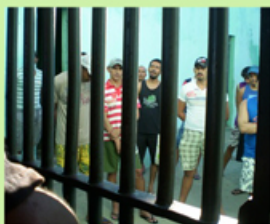
Matureia Youth

LIFE SQUAD

Our 'Life Squad' is a team of men who visit the Patos Men's Prison every Wednesday afternoon from 4pm to 5pm (8 to 9 pm BST). A couple of months ago, while ministering to a group of men, 3 prisoners made commitments to Christ, and more recently another 2 men made decisions for Christ for which we praise God.

A group of young people from the Matureia church went to the XX Youth Congress of ACEV Brazil, with the theme "While I Live". The youth of today is living in remarkable days of spiritual renewal, communion and total surrender to the Lord.

May every word ministered and every moment in God's presence continue to bear eternal fruit in their lives!



São Mamede is a town about half an hour's drive north-east of Patos, and every fortnight the Patos Men's Fellowship go there to hold a Gospel meeting in the street, outside the house we rent.

It is a joy to share the Gospel in this needy place. We can have up to 50 people attending the meetings, some sat on the chairs and others stood around the periphery. As the service is broadcast through loudspeakers there are many more people in the surrounding houses and shops that hear the Gospel too.

Slowly people have been responding to the Gospel. One evening Marlene said she had committed her life to Christ and wanted to be baptized, followed by Denise saying she was re-dedicating her life to the Lord and wants to be part of our church. One woman even made a commitment to Christ in the middle of the service, without any appeal being made! Now we have five members.

Recently the group and their friends attended a service at the home of Dr Fred and Marileide, 2 of the small group of believers. They look forward to many more being added so the group of believers can grow and flourish in this needy area.



Market Garden

In the Bom Conselho Community we started a market garden for Gilsandro, the church accordionist.

His garden is now overflowing with lettuce, coriander, spring onions, bananas, passion fruit and a great number of paw-paw! He is so thankful for the garden implements he received such as the piping for irrigation, the tools, shading netting etc.

He said how the wheelbarrow is so helpful because he collects manure from neighbouring small-holdings to put on his plants.

The quality of everything is so good he now has a contract with the main Matureia supermarket to supply fruit and vegetables every day.

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EAB's Christmas Gift Scheme goes digital!

The time has come for EAB's Christmas Gift Scheme to make some changes. We thank Marian for all her work over the last 13 years doing this scheme manually sending out Christmas Cards as requested.

Many very poor people have been helped at Christmas in northeast Brazil through this scheme. However, Marian doesn't feel she can carry on doing this manually any longer.

However, EAB's Christmas Card Gift Scheme will now take on a digital format. You choose as before the items you want to purchase and tell us which email you want us to send a Christmas Card (ecard) to. EAB will then send a Christmas ecard to all as requested.

Please see the enclosed leaflet for full instructions.



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.