



June, 2011

CBMA / CBMC Newsletter

Go out into all the world...

Baptisms in Brazil

By Brother Don Luff

Brazil is the fifth-largest country in the world and the largest in South America both by area and by population, with over 190 million inhabitants. It is also the only Portuguese-speaking country in the Americas. Though the CBMA has not advertised widely in Brazil, mostly because our background and expertise are mainly in the Spanish language, we do have a good number of contacts in the country. Many are generated from the web site of Brother Sandro Mestre in Portugal and receive the Portuguese-language Bible course from Brother Jim and Sister Jean Hunter. In addition, Brother Emerson Acosta of Porto Alegre, in the south of Brazil, offers the postal course and follows up contacts in his area. Yet other Brazilians happen to speak Spanish or English and find us on the Internet in those languages and it is through this medium, after extensive instruction by email and telephone, that our community recently acquired two more members in the country!



From March 24 to April 15 Brother Jim journeyed to different parts of Brazil. After an interview with Gesélia Maria de Oliveira, she was baptized in the Atlantic Ocean in the city of Recife on March 31st. This was followed by a Breaking of Bread and receiving into fellowship, all in the presence of Gesélia's friend Hilma (see the accompanying photo of the two ladies-Gesélia with headcovering). Sister Gesélia speaks English and initially made contact with Christadelphians in Virginia over the web. Jim continued on to the city of Mossoró to visit Pedro Galeano Báez, a Paraguayan (and therefore Spanish-speaking) resident of Brazil, who in 2003 came across the CBMA web site www.labiblia.com and whom Jim has visited on several previous occasions. After a final review Pedro was baptized in the Atlantic on April 4th. The Breaking of Bread and receiving into fellowship took place at Pedro's home.

Jim then travelled to Sapuciaia, near Porto Alegre, in the south of the country, where he had a very enjoyable visit with Brother Emerson Acosta and family. Unfortunately Emerson lives a long way from the new members in this immense land and so the possibilities for fellowship among them are limited.

As I am sure you can appreciate, the potential for outreach in Brazil is as huge as the country; what is mainly lacking are the human and financial resources to respond. We thank our Heavenly Father for blessing us with the freedom and ability to follow up on these individuals searching for Truth, in contrast to the false teachings of Christendom that surrounds them.

Dreams Do Come True!

by Sister Jan Berneau

Here in the United States, there are countless marriages where a friendship began at a Bible School or CYC activity. What if there was only one Bible School a year you could attend and that was held in another country where you don't even live?

Sister Zuelan Cascante (21) from Costa Rica and Brother Neftali Espinoza (23) from El Salvador met due the yearend Bible Schools in Costa Rica and El Salvador, and were engaged to be married.



They were married in the Santa Barbara, Costa Rican Hall on April 23rd. The hall looks very presentable, since about 2 years ago they repainted and installed new lighting. We pray for God's richest blessings on their married life in the Truth. This is a good example of even closer relations and fellowship for the Central American Ecclesias.

Reintroducing the CBMA

by Sister Jan Berneau

On April 9 and 10, the Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas met with the members of the Moorestown, NJ and the Washington, DC Ecclesias to discuss the work of the CBMA as well as the many volunteer opportunities available to members.

The Lord has greatly blessed us with providing a window of opportunity to preach widely across the Americas.

Currently, there are 45 overseas ecclesias in the Americas, with nearly 1,000 brothers, sisters and Sunday School members. The work has historically been built by the efforts of mission workers who have dedicated, in some cases, decades of their lives to working in Latin America and the Caribbean. This work has slowly spread the Truth into areas where new ecclesias have been established over time.



However, the "model" for CBMA Mission work is changing. New technologies, such as the Internet, have accelerated the penetration of the Truth in the Americas. While we will always consider our "on-the-ground" mission workers the backbone of CBMA work, there are now many opportunities for brothers and sisters to make substantial contributions to the work in shorter time spans and in some cases from their own homes. The "reintroduction" of the CBMA was designed to inform the brothers and sisters of Moorestown and Washington, DC of the new volunteering model and some of the exciting work that currently exists.

There are four separate categories of volunteer opportunities that the CBMA presented.

Introductory mission trips - These trips are scheduled to be conducted in a number of areas in 2011-2012 (Lord Willing). These trips are led by CBMA representatives that have familiarity with

each country and the ecclesias to be visited. The tour guide will provide a "taste" of Mission work and introduce participants our wonderful brothers and sisters in these countries. If you are considering Mission work in the future, an introductory trip is a good investment of your time and money.

Participation in Mission Work - The CBMA introduced several immediate opportunities to be part of planned campaigns or ongoing outreach in the Caribbean. These volunteer opportunities are appropriate for all willing workers and prior experience and Spanish language skills are not required.

Individual Volunteer Opportunities - These are important contributions each brother or sister can make right from their own home. Examples include on-line tutoring, writing on-line articles and Works of Faith financial contributions.

Ecclesial Volunteer Opportunities - A number of Works of Faith opportunities represent good matches for ecclesias and/or Sunday Schools. It involves collect materials and resources needed in Latin and Caribbean ecclesias as well as the raising funds to improve halls or repair the homes of members in Mission areas.

As you can see, there is something for all! We encourage you to volunteer today for one or more of these exciting opportunities and make a difference in the Americas.

For questions or to get information on volunteer work, please contact Bro. Dave Jennings at djennings@cox.net. To see a full list of current Works of Faith opportunities please look at the CBMA.net website or contact Sis. Jan Berneau at jberneau@earthlink.net.

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