



The Iteba Network Newsletter

Through Which Love Flows

Vol. 1, No. 1 June 2003

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE

The Network meeting at Washington, PA from May 31 – June 1 authorized the creation of a Newsletter and web site through which we might stay in touch and communicate all of the news about ITEBA and our network. Paul Blume volunteered to act as editor of the Newsletter and webmaster of the web site. The web site is being hosted at no cost by Hanover College. The URL is <http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>. The web site is in its early stages and more pages are planned for the future. However, Paul needs your comments and suggestions for improvement regarding both the web site and the Newsletter. Send them to blume@hanover.edu or to his home address (141 Fisher Street, Hanover, IN 47243). All comments and suggestions will be carefully considered in light of the overall purposes of the web site and Newsletter.

WHAT PAUL NEEDS FROM YOU

Each church in the Network needs to appoint an official correspondent to communicate all its news about ITEBA-related events to Paul so that it might be included in the Newsletter. The idea is to have a section of each Newsletter devoted to news from around the Network. Please send the URL of your church's web site, the e-mail address of your minister and the person at your church to whom the newsletter should be sent, and anything else that you think might be interesting or useful to the rest of us. This might include suggestions about projects to raise money for ITEBA; resources (books, films, recordings, computer web sites, etc.) that are useful in understanding Brazil or the mission of ITEBA; or articles about Brazil and/or ITEBA that have appeared in other publications. Please

send the name of your church's correspondent to Paul at the e-mail or snail-mail address mentioned above.

SUCCESSFUL NETWORK MEETING HELD IN MAY/JUNE

Over thirty persons attended the Network Conference held at Washington, PA from May 31 – June 1. Great thanks must go to the kind folks at First Pres for their hard work and generosity in organizing and hosting the



meeting. It was good to see old friends. We were all fortunate indeed to be able to meet and hear Áureo Bispo dos Santos and Marlene

Moreira da Silva speak passionately about ITEBA and their appreciation for all that the Network means to them. Áureo is Director of July 2nd School, where ITEBA has its home, and Marlene is the Academic Dean of ITEBA.

Áureo and Marlene told us that there are really three major challenges facing ITEBA at this point in its history. First is the need to acquire accreditation of ITEBA from the Ministry of Education. Accreditation will bring many benefits, the most important of which are (1) official recognition of the diploma granted by ITEBA, which means, for example, that graduates will be allowed to teach; (2) the ability of students to apply for scholarships to attend ITEBA; and (3) the ability of students to have their daily transportation to ITEBA paid for by the Federal government. This latter benefit is of major importance to students since transportation costs in Salvador are very high. The accreditation process is already underway, but must be completed within four years.

The second major concern is the need to raise annual operating funds to keep ITEBA's doors open. Operating funds are so limited now that

the College was forced to operate several months without any income. Its faculty continue to need second jobs in order to earn enough to survive in Salvador

The third concern of ITEBA is to raise capital funds. The primary need right now is for \$150,000 to purchase a building and furnishings in order to acquire a "permanent address" to satisfy one of the requirements for accreditation. The good news is that our Network is preparing a grant application to the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Fund for \$150,000 for ITEBA's new residence. Several folks stayed over in Washington after the meeting was over to complete work on our application. Keep your fingers crossed!

A great discussion followed Áureo's resenation. Marlene told us that it takes about \$420 to provide education for one ITEBA student for one year and transportation costs the students another \$80 each year. A professor earns about \$10,000 per year, which reiterates the earlier comment that their faculty are forced to have second jobs in order to make ends meet.

The rest of the day's discussion was ummarized in the following items. First, Paul Blume volunteered to take responsibility for creating a Newsletter and web site. Second, the purpose/organization of the next trip to Brazil will be firmed up by Gina Gustavason, David Leslie, June Rogers, and Sara Rogers. It will probably have a medically-related purpose, but this will not exclude anyone from going. Third, Bert Campbell and June Rogers will think about how the World Mission Division of the PCUSA might be able to help us. Fourth, the grant application to the Birthday Fund will be finalized and submitted. Fifth, the process of incorporating the Network, which is already underway, will be completed. Sixth, Bob Butterfield will continue to think about how we might get the dance group from Salvador up here for a series of presentations to raise funds for ITEBA. Seventh, we will continue to think about how we might acquire interns at ITEBA to help in the communication between all of us. The need for proficiency in both English and Portuguese is the real problem. Finally, thought will be given

to when we will next meet, and where. Maybe have another church host to take the burden off First Pres in Washington?



The day concluded with a wonderful dinner of Brazilian food at Washington & Jefferson College, which was followed by hours of wonderful conversation. Of special interest was a comparison of work accomplished on the two sites by the two Mutirão groups.

Fund Raising Suggestions

One of the purposes of this Newsletter is to spread the word about fundraising ideas. One idea that is being used at the Hanover Presbyterian Church is to designate the third Sunday of each month as *Fast Food Sunday*. Members are encouraged to make a special donation equal to the amount they might spend on a meal at a local fast food restaurant (or maybe at a really nice restaurant!). The average amount that has been collected each month since the plan's inception (January of this year) has been about \$160.

In Conclusion

Let Paul know your suggestions and comments about improving the Newsletter. It's **your** newsletter and can't be improved unless you tell us. The same goes for the web site. As a reminder, here is what he needs. First, your official contact person. Second, the URL of your church for inclusion in the web site. Third, the e-mail address of your minister and a person in your church office who is to receive the Newsletter.