



# The Iteba Network Newsletter

Through Which Love Flows

Vol. 1, No. 2 October 2003

## Greetings and Welcome

This is the second Network Newsletter and we welcome all readers, new and old. If you know of someone who would like to be included in the e-mailing list, or whose e-mail address has changed, please send that information to Paul Blume at [blume@hanover.edu](mailto:blume@hanover.edu).

## A Tribute to Elizabeth Leslie

Those of us who attended the May meeting in Washington, PA were privileged to meet David Leslie's mother, Elizabeth, a vivacious and wonderful person. All of us were saddened when we received word that Elizabeth had suffered a stroke in July and passed away soon afterwards. Bill Rogers has written a Memoriam to Elizabeth that is reproduced below. Your editor apologizes for not passing it along sooner.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth C. Leslie

September 1919 -- July 2003

Elizabeth Leslie was one of the most remarkable members of the ITEBA Network. At more than 80 years of age she went with June, and members of the Westminster (Minneapolis) Church --- plus her son, David -- to visit ITEBA. Those of you who have a copy of the Covenant Agreement that the Network developed with ITEBA -- the one with the picture of the women leaders of YAMI -- will have a picture of Elizabeth with her new friends.

Elizabeth might well be said to have been a leader in the traditional women's missionary movement in the

United States, but Elizabeth was no ordinary leader. In a Statement of Faith which she thoughtfully prepared in advance for her funeral (!), Elizabeth said:

*A statement of faith is an emerging or evolving phenomenon as we mature and our faith manifests itself in service to God and God's children ....*

*I choose to be a disciple of Christ where I can persevere in bringing healing and wholeness to a wounded, unjust society.*

Elizabeth was the first to make a substantial gift for the founding of the women's center, YAMI, at ITEBA. It was a courageous and loving thing to do.

When June and I heard from David that his mother had died, I tried to send a group, e-mail to the Network -- the first since I stepped aside as convener -- but I didn't have it right and the e-mail didn't go. So this will be the first that most of you will have heard about Elizabeth's death.

June and I went to the funeral in Washington, Pennsylvania. It was an incredible celebration of Elizabeth's life.

David and his sister and brother have set up a memorial fund in their mother's memory. It will be used for ITEBA. June and I have just sent a check for the Elizabeth Leslie Memorial, which is in addition to our annual "Covenant" pledge to ITEBA. Gifts can be sent to the First Presbyterian Church, 100 East Wheeling Street, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301-4894, marked "Elizabeth Leslie Memorial."

I write this with love and affection for each of you,

Sincerely,

Bill Rogers

## Mutirão II (2002) Journal Available

*Today [July 7, 2002] we had on the schedule to participate in a welcome service at Valeria Silva Church. After some confusion on how to arrive there, we started out. I am still getting used to the small streets and cars and winding roads. There seem to be some sort of method to this madness so I just sit back in awe.*

*When we arrived at the church I was unable to see it. All I saw was this steep hill that we all had to navigate. Not being a person who does well without hand and foot supports (steps) I was a bit anxious. Having not tripped up the ramp (miracle in itself), the church structure was amazing. Beautiful white stone with floors, pews, altar, and smiling faces. It had a welcoming feel and certainly full of the spirit.*

*The service was moving and the children's choir was steeped in the image of God. Their passion for God showed in their faces, voices and actions.*

*The ranch where we had Festa de São João was breathtaking. Food, conversation and music was plentiful and more than I expected. The hospitality I have received is wonderful, appreciated and humbling. May God grant us a great experience and provide us with guidance to do God's work.*

Participants in the 2002 Mutirão II were invited on specific days to write their observations in a Journal. The quotation above is but one entry to that Journal. Jennifer Newman of First Pres (Washington, PA) has transcribed the handwritten Journal to Word format and it is now available, thanks to her hard work. It is wonderful reading to all of us who have been privileged to be there and it will serve as a valuable tool for those going on future Mutirões (see below). The entire Journal is available on the Projects page of the web site in PDF format or directly at <http://ITEBA.hanover.edu/TextFiles/MII-Journal.pdf>. There is a link on the Projects page to obtain a free copy of Adobe Acrobat that reads PDF files, if you need it.

## Just In For Mutirão II Participants

The following just arrived, courtesy of June Rogers.

Some of you will remember Silvia Barbosa who led the beautiful liturgy at the Quilombo Zeferina for our opening luncheon there during Mutirao 2 and who

provided much of the motivation, enthusiasm, and commitment that led to the founding of the Quilombo Zeferina Center initially. Silvia, who has been studying at the Methodist University in Sao Paulo, has sent some wonderful news that she wants all of you to share. She has completed her master's thesis which details the courageous role of Zeferina as a warrior in pursuit of freedom for her people and the strength that her memory brings to black women today. The thesis only awaits the approval of her advisor. June, who says it is fascinating, has a copy if any of you would like to read it. (Good way to learn Portuguese!)

Not waiting for final approval on her master's thesis, Silvia has already begun the process for the doctorate. She is very hopeful that she will again receive a scholarship from the PC(USA)'s Office of Global Education. Silvia plans to return to ITEBA full time to teach New Testament after her doctorate is completed. In the meantime she asks for our prayers as she continues her work and seeks the funds needed to continue her study on the PhD that ITEBA needs for accreditation. She said to tell you all that she will be in Salvador, at Zeferina, for Mutirao 3 and looks forward to seeing many of you then.

(WATCH FOR the January/February issue of HORIZONS (Presbyterian Women's Magazine) for an article about Silvia and her poignant personal story. It also includes a good bit of information about Iteba and would be useful in interpreting the purposes and the context of ITEBA.)

## January Trip Salvador Planned

A few Network personnel are planning a short trip to Salvador this coming January and welcome others who wish to go. The trip will last about 10 days, will not involve any work on the projects, and will serve as an introductory trip for Network folks who have not yet visited ITEBA. The trip might be of special interest to ministers in the Network churches who have a desire for on-sight knowledge of Salvador and ITEBA, but perhaps don't have the time to participate in a Mutirão. A final purpose of the trip will be to make final arrangements for the Mutirão next summer. The estimated cost (flight & hotel) is around \$1,700 (it's their holiday season!) and the tentative dates are Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> -

29<sup>th</sup>. The airline charge is guaranteed for only about three weeks so it would be good to get your name and money in as soon as possible. If you are interested in going, or have questions, e-mail David Leslie at [Nleslie@sgi.net](mailto:Nleslie@sgi.net).

## Mutirão III Is Coming

Mutirão III will occur this coming summer, probably during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> full weeks of July. Plans are to leave on a Friday and return on a Saturday or Sunday following the two-week work period. The trip will have a medical focus in addition to continuing work on the two projects, Quilombo Zeferina and Valerio Silva Church. What we do and when we go, of course, will depend upon our Brazilian friends. Network personnel are in contact with them about the trip and we will communicate more information in a short while. It is estimated that the total cost will be in the neighborhood of \$2,500, including the monetary contribution we leave with them. It is not too soon to begin passing the word about next summer and recruiting folks to join Mutirão III, especially those with medical skills. Various churches in the Network have created PowerPoint presentations and they are more than willing to share them (we know of ones at Minneapolis and Hanover), and maybe even to supply past Mutirão members to speak.

## Planning For Mutirão III

We need to create 5 task forces to begin planning for Mutirão III, with membership on those task forces being divided among the Network churches. The question is how to best facilitate task force formation and the subsequent planning. **One** suggestion is to have representatives from each Network church meet on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at Westminster Pres in Munster, IN for a face-to-face planning session (the Westminster folks have graciously agreed to host us). The **other** suggestion is to use e-mail and conference calls to first create the task forces and to then use the same methods to do the planning. The choice is left

up to us. Each church in the Network should decide which method they favor and then have a single representative e-mail David Leslie ([Nleslie@sgi.net](mailto:Nleslie@sgi.net)) with their church's choice. **Please do this by no later than Friday, October 10. Your attention to this request will be appreciated.**

## Money Raising Idea

Josh Beran of Mt. Auburn (Cincinnati), a member of Mutirão II, tells of a wonderful idea that he used to raise money for ITEBA. He advertised on a bulletin board in the church's social hall that he would come to any house and prepare dinner. The interested party bought the groceries, make a contribution to ITEBA, and Josh fixed the dinner and then presented a program and answered questions about ITEBA. It was very successful and raised significant funds for ITEBA. Anyone knowing Josh will understand why it was so successful.

## Sending Funds to ITEBA

A number of churches now participate in the Network and the question might come up about how to send funds to ITEBA. First Pres in Washington, PA has created a process by which funds can be safely and reliably transferred to Brazil and we will use them to route all Network funds in that direction. Thus, please send your church and personal checks to Dr. Robert Campbell, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Wheeling Street, Washington, PA 15301-4894. Be sure to include a note indicating that the funds are to be transferred to ITEBA.

## Pictures Sought of Mutirão I

Your editor would like to create an album on the Web Site of pictures from the work projects at Quilombo Zererina and Valerio Silva in order to illustrate the wonderful progress that has been made at both sites. We already have plenty of

pictures from Mutirão II, but need pictures of both projects from Mutirão I. Thus, if you have any pictures that you are willing to share, please send either the physical picture (to be scanned and returned) or a CD with digital images (also to be returned). Include any verbal explanations of the pictures that you think useful or interesting. All contributions will be appreciated. Send them to Paul Blume, 141 Fisher Street, Hanover, IN 47243.

## **B**razilian Resources Sought

The Web Site (<http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>) has a page devoted to various resources about Brazil. Your editor has just added one that he discovered and found to be useful. It has to do with the Landless Workers Movement in Brazil. Please pass on any useful resources that you know about for inclusion on that page. All of us will benefit! Thanks.

## **P**ass the Newsletter Around

One of the purposes of our Newsletter is to spread the word about ITEBA and our Network. Thus, certainly feel free to duplicate it for distribution in your church or to anyone else who might be interested. If you find folks who would like to be on the e-mail list, certainly send your editor their names & e-mail addresses. It doesn't cost anything to send and we might attract new member churches and individuals.

## **K**eep Sending News Items

We need to know what is happening in your church and community relative to ITEBA and the Network. Send everything to Paul Blume (your Editor) at [blume@hanover.edu](mailto:blume@hanover.edu).