



# The Iteba Network Newsletter

Through Which Love Flows

Vol. 2, No. 1 January 2004

## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to all of us from all of us in the Network. This is the third Newsletter and there is lots of exciting news in the following pages.

## Great News: Grant Approved!

One of the biggest challenges facing ITEBA has been to become an accredited university by the Brazilian government. Such accreditation will bring many benefits, among those being (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. However, accreditation requires, among other things, that ITEBA must own a physical facility for offices, a library, and classrooms. The cost of such facilities is estimated to be \$175,000. A small group of Network personnel worked closely with ITEBA staff in June to craft a grant application to the Birthday Offering of the Presbyterian Woman (PCUSA) for \$150,000 to purchase, remodel, and equip a building for ITEBA to use in order to satisfy that part of the requirement for application for university status. In late December ITEBA was notified that the grant had been approved, **dependent on funding!** Special thanks for writing the grant application goes to Jim Yackel of Westminister Presbyterian in Munster, IN. Great Job, Jim!

The January/February issue of *HORIZONS*, the magazine of the Presbyterian Women, formally announced the grant. The essential text from the grant proposal as well as the article from

*HORIZONS* are both available on the ITEBA page of the website (<http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>).

The funds will be distributed beginning in late 2004, but whether or not the full \$150,000 approved will be available will depend upon the money raised by the Presbyterian Women 2004 Birthday Fund drive. Thus, it is very important for each of us to work in our local churches to publicize the Birthday Offering drive to help be sure that sufficient funds are raised nationwide to fully fund the grant.

## Butterfields Going to ITEBA

The PCUSA has appointed Bob and Keiko Butterfield to serve as mission co-workers at ITEBA for the next three years. Bob is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, has a Ph.D. in biblical studies, is fluent in Portuguese, and has been active in Network activities (many of you met him at the meeting in May in Washington, PA). He is expected to teach Old Testament. Keiko is a Japanese national with U.S. certification as a clinical massage therapist. She will minister with her loving presence and healing touch.

The Butterfields are planning to leave for ITEBA the first week in March and hope to live with a local family (or local families) for the first two or three months as a way of getting integrated into the ITEBA community and really feeling part of the culture there.

Three times a year the Butterfields will send photos and a mission interpretation letter to keep you posted on their ministry at ITEBA. These will be passed to the Network using the Newsletter and other devices. Our best wishes and love go with Bob and Keiko.

## Article in *Horizons Of Interest*

Newsletter readers should drag out their last issue (Vol 1, No. 2 October 2003) or use the PDF version on the web site to reread the article about Silvia Barbosa that June Ramage Rogers passed to us. June received word in November that Silvia successfully defended her master's dissertation, which was approved with commendation for publication. The January/February issue of *HORIZONS* has an article, written by June, about Silvia and her poignant personal story. It also includes a good bit of information about ITEBA and will be useful in interpreting the purposes and the context of ITEBA. The article is available on the ITEBA page of the website (<http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>).

## January Trip To Salvador

Four Network personnel will leave on January 19 for a short trip to Salvador. Going will be Rev. Douglas Mitchell of Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis, MN; Rev. Bert Campbell and David Leslie of First Presbyterian in Washington, PA; and June Ramage Rogers of Hanover (IN) Presbyterian. The purposes of the trip will be to clarify details about the upcoming Mutirão III (see below), help ITEBA staff plan for use of the Presbyterian Women grant funds, and provide Revs. Mitchell and Campbell an introduction to ITEBA, Salvador, and Northeastern Brazil. The group will return on January 27. We wish them God speed and will look forward to their report upon return.

## Mutirão III Is Coming

Plans for Mutirão III this summer are being firmed up. One of the primary purposes of the January trip will be to consult with the folks at ITEBA about their needs and how our trip can contribute. Present plans call for a maximum group size of 25 persons that will leave on Friday, July 9 and depart Salvador on Saturday, July 24, to arrive back in the States on Sunday

the 25<sup>th</sup>. Unlike Mutirão II there will be no opportunity for participants to arrive/leave in the middle of the stay. It is also hoped that all participants can converge at some major U.S. airport and fly to Brazil together as a group, although individuals can make their own travel arrangements if they wish. However, it was the experience from Mutirão II that the group fare, which included all regional and international flights, was lower than individually arranged flights.

The anticipated cost of our trip will be \$2,700 per person, which includes the great majority of meals, all transportation, housing, construction materials, and a contribution to ITEBA. David Leslie has consulted with a number of people about trips like ours and he is told that the normal cost, including all that we include, is between \$2,500 and \$4,500. The exact cost of our trip will be announced following the return of the January group from Brazil. There is a \$500 deposit due by March 15, 2004 and the final payment is due by May 15, 2004. Persons may withdraw their participation and receive a refund of the deposit up until May 15, 2004.

Interested persons can consult the new Mutirão III page on the Network website (<http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>) that includes important information about passports, visas, health issues, a Registration Form, and a suggested reading list to prepare for the trip. The web page will be updated continually as more information about the trip becomes available. All Registrations, payments, and communications for Mutirão III will be handled by Paul Blume ([blume@hanover.edu](mailto:blume@hanover.edu)).

## Brazil Camp Suggested

Mark Swift is a professor of music at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, PA and was a member of both Mutirões I and II. He has made an excellent proposal for a *Brazil Camp* and excerpts from the draft of his proposal are reproduced below. No doubt Mark will appreciate hearing from any of you about his ideas ([mswift@washjeff.edu](mailto:mswift@washjeff.edu)).

In preparations for a music class I'm teaching, I read Barbara Browning's *Samba: Resistance in Motion*. In one of those "Eureka!" moments, this text helped me see more clearly how studying some academic literature can help us not only understand Brazil, but also understand better our relationship with our ITEBA friends, and how we might "sell" the project to Americans. Specifically, this text discusses how Brazilians are capable of finding joy in the face of poverty. I see this as analogous to how our ITEBA friends are spiritually fed by hosting us, even as our visits can present profound hardship for them. I believe it would be valuable for us to study these ideas in more depth here in the U.S. in advance of Mutirão 3.

Brazil Camp, tentatively scheduled for June 28 – July 2 (plus the weekends on either end), can serve as an alternative for ITEBA supporters who wish to contribute to The Cause, stimulate their brains, but not take the international vacation. Whether you've already participated in Mutirão I or II and would love to return, but would feel selfish doing so, and don't want to deny others the opportunity to visit Brazil; or, simply don't have the cash to pay for the trip; or, want to contribute monetary resources to ITEBA and not to travel expenses, BUT still want to learn some cool stuff—Brazil Camp can be our U.S. alternative for raising funds for the continuing goal of helping ITEBA attain accreditation from the Brazilian government.

#### The basics elements of the Brazil Camp idea:

Teach it as a college-level course, perhaps even with the possibility of credit.

Charge tuition on a graduated scale of \$500 - \$2000 based on personal income, 100% of which will be donated to ITEBA. All hosts, facilities, and professors'/leaders' time will be gratis/pro bono/donated/free. (My goal is to average \$800 - \$1000 / person.)

Provide participants with free room and board in the homes of volunteer hosts, with the understanding that participants will contribute towards meals.

Hold classes in an air-conditioned facility with state-of-the-art "smart" classrooms and comfortable lounge areas for reading – the new Vilar Technology Center on the campus of W&J College in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Devote time entirely to the study and discussion of the "Brazilian reality" and ITEBA's mission, including the Brazilian economic, social, and racial situation, music, film, history, and some hands-on construction skill development, plus detailed information sessions on ITEBA's work, and Sylvia's thesis on Quilombo Zeferina.

Include activities and periods of focused reading, journaling, discussion, film-viewing, construction practice, letter-writing, language study, and socializing with each other to re-enforce the interpersonal bonds of the people devoted to the American ITEBA network

Develop the curriculum through consensus among those with extensive knowledge of Brazil and ITEBA, including June and Bill Rogers and their children, academics who have participated in previous Mutirões, and anyone else in the network who feels strongly about the value of studying particular examples of literature or culture of Brazil.

## Funds Raised For ITEBA

Elaine Johnson (First Presbyterian-Washington, PA) is the unofficial Network treasurer who both receives our contributions to ITEBA and transmits those funds to Brazil. Other churches are, of course, free to make their own direct contributions to ITEBA. It is our understanding that Alice Campbell of Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis does this. It is reported that \$34,900 was contributed to ITEBA in 2003, \$9,000 of which will be taken down by the group in January. We should feel very pleased with our work thus far and this should act as a stimulus for even more generous giving in the future. For those of you not wishing to establish direct financial relationships with ITEBA, please send your church and personal checks to Rev. Dr. Robert Campbell, Pastor (First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Wheeling Street, Washington, PA 15301-4894) who will pass them on to Elaine. Be sure to include a note indicating that the funds are to be transferred to ITEBA.

## Book Review of Relevance

A review of *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd will soon be on the Resources page of the website. Watch for it! Those who have been to Bahia will see the similarity between African American, the Daughters of Mary in South Carolina, and the YAMI ITEBA Women in Bahia.

## **I**TEBA Celebrates A Birthday

ITEBA celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special celebration from December 10 - 12. Included was a student night and special musical program.

## **B**razilian Resources Sought

Mention was made in the last issue about the Web Site (<http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>) containing a page devoted to various resources about Brazil. Several more have been added since the last Newsletter. Check them out!

Let us repeat an appeal from that Newsletter: please send your Editor any useful resource references 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 (a PDF version can be downloaded from the Web site). 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. If your e-mail address changes, please be sure to alert your Editor.

## **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).

## **I**n Our Prayers

- Alice Campbell, who is recovering from breast cancer surgery
- David Leslie, who lost both parents this year
- Bill Rogers, who is recovering from pneumonia