



The Iteba Network Newsletter

Through Which Love Flows

Vol. 2, No. 2 March 2004

January Trip To Salvador

Four Network personnel left in early January for a short trip to Salvador. Going were 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 were 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 trip was successful and progress was made in setting up details for this summer. Rev. Campbell reflected on his trip in his congregational newsletter and we excerpt some of his comments below.

"It was summer and more relaxed and their government seems to be getting a much better handle on living conditions. Which translates into stop lights working and speed laws being enforced. But it also means the removal of the slums along the shore . . . so that Salvador will become more attractive to tourists. Unfortunately, while it is good for the tourist trade it also means people without means are piled higher and higher on the fringes of the city . . ."

"The students are for the most part poor, young and old. Twenty two of us met in a room 10 foot by 10 foot. We worshipped. . . The liturgical offerings by the students were blends of African rituals and traditional worship as we know it. They were meaning-filled, creative, beautiful and theologically sound. There was an incredible ecumenical mix present. Catholic, Pentecostal, African, Presbyterian, Methodist . . . such is the kingdom of God I would think."

"We saw the places our church and others have worked on. Valario Silva Church is now finished. . . We visited our building site in Zeferina. It is still

under construction and probably will be for a long time to come but when a couple of dozen children flooded our van calling out names from this congregation I knew the importance of the place and our efforts."

"Our send-off was like all Brazilian send-offs, filled with celebration and 'thank-yous' and love. It is an incredibly important thing we are doing. Not just by ourselves but in partnership with other churches and with our colleagues in Brazil. . . It is once again why I truly believe in world mission in the church. It moves those who see it first hand to a new level of faith. It allows those of us in this country to move beyond borders and headlines and our insular worlds to see the faith of others which in turn teaches us so much more about faith.. It brings us together as God would have us be in service and sharing with one another. It is the right thing to do!"

Mutirão III Is Coming

Plans for Mutirão III this summer continue to be firmed up. Present plans call for a maximum group size of 25 persons (**there is still plenty of room left for anyone wishing to join**) that will leave on Friday, July 9 and depart Salvador on Saturday, July 24, to arrive back in the States on Sunday the 25th. It is 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 at the time of registration 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).

Brazilian Music Offered

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. In addition to his suggestion for a *Brazil Camp* that was highlighted in the last newsletter, Mark has made the following offer. For those who don't know, Fabricio da Cruz Borges, the young man mentioned below, become very close to many of us who have worked at Zeferina. He is a wonderful musician, but is suffering from an unsightly skin disease that is a form of lupus. He is self-conscious about his appearance, but his work with his musical group has made him more outgoing and given him self confidence.

"I am reproducing the CD that Fabricio's group, Afro Criminais, made called *Vida Cotidiana*. I'd like to market this CD to all the churches in the network. In addition to the four songs by them, I have added 15 other songs from various artists. Also, I have reproduced in full color the insert along with

translations of two of the songs. I'm charging \$12. This CD by rights is owned by the group, and therefore all money that I collect will go to the group (except to recoup cost of reproducing the CD) rather than ITEBA. I will happily send promo pictures for people to use with a sign-up display in their churches. They just need to contact me directly and I'll send that stuff. Also, checks should be made out to me, and I will hold this money in an account for Afro Criminais, to be delivered to them during Mutirão 3 next summer. Let me know if you have any questions."



A portion of the money that Mark collects will be set aside to purchase medicine for Fabricio, who is pictured at the left.

Those who are interested can contact Mark using the following information.

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Washington, PA 15301
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Office phone 724-223-6109

Grant Funding Needed

Readers of the last Newsletter will recall that we announced that ITEBA was given \$150,000 by the Birthday Offering of the Presbyterian Women (PCUSA) to purchase, remodel, and equip a building for ITEBA to use in order to satisfy a part of the requirement for becoming 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.

The problem is now for the Presbyterian Women to raise the funds in this year's Birthday Offering. Each church in the network should now have received the promotional materials for the Birthday Offering. Please urge your local Woman's Association to try and raise as much money as possible so that ITEBA may receive its funds. One suggestion for fund raising comes from Carol Rogers.

"We're going to be having a birthday party at my home in April as a fundraiser. We'll have cake and ice cream, maybe play games and invite the whole church. We'll show the ITEBA video and have a gift wrapped donation box where people can deposit their Birthday Offering envelopes that they received at church. We're going to decorate in Brazilian colors, have Brazilian food of some kind, have lots of Brazilian music, and I hope we'll be doing some dancing."

Brazilian Resource Page Updated

Thanks to June Ramage Rogers, the resources page of our website has been significantly improved to include many more items. Please hit the website (<http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>) and examine the items. You might even consider having your church add some of the items to its library.

Sara Rogers Letters on Website

Those of us who were on Mutirão II in 2002 know Sara Hurtado Rogers. She served as an intern for the Network of Solidarity with ITEBA during the 2001-2002 academic year and was instrumental in making our stay in Salvador as wonderful as it was.

During her stay in Brazil, Sara sent home a number of letters, including one written the day after 9-11, that she has given us permission to place on the web. They are wonderfully

perceptive, warm, human, and even disturbing as she gives her impressions of living in Salvador, a lifestyle totally different from her own. All of us with an interest in, and knowledge of, Salvador and ITEBA will benefit from reading them. They are linked on the ITEBA page of the website at <http://ITEBA.hanover.edu>. You may also download a PDF copy from the site if you wish.

Auction Items Needed

David Rogers of First Pres of St. Cloud, MN is asking for donations to their third annual Silent Auction to support the ITEBA partnership. The auction will be held on March 28 and your contributions will be much appreciated. You may e-mail David at dcrogers@stcloudstate.edu for more information about making contributions.

Pass 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.

Please Send 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.