

Harvest: Brazil

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“Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus, and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven'”. Mark 2,4-5

How did those men made an opening in the roof so that the paralytic could meet with Jesus?”

In 2007 my wife and I gave a Bible to a little boy whose family attended our church in Brazil. His name is Giordano Bruno. At that time he was 5 years old and now he is 8. In my last trip I met Giordano with his parents and we shared a meal. While we were eating, the child brought his Bible, which showed signs of intense use, and he asked me, “Cleiton how did those men made an opening in the roof so that the paralytic could meet with Jesus?”



I didn't tell him that his question was interesting and intelligent, but I tried to talk in terms that would be easy for a child, explaining to Giordano about the faith of those friends who brought the man to Jesus, and how they were blessed. In situations similar to that one, any friends can see how Jesus forgives, heals, encourages and teaches, and how he also gives people much joy! I told the boy that faith brings order to our lives, it brings peace and quietness to friends who are in need and it moves God's hand to make miracles.

Because of this child, his sensitivity, his purity and faith, his simplicity and trust, his desire to see Jesus making miracles, his desire to be able to read the whole Bible, I started to think about other children, those who live in small towns and villages by the Amazon river, at the border between Brazil and Colombia.

Although my work has the adult population as its target, there is no way I can avoid having children around me and talk to them when I'm serving people. I can say that my last trip to the Amazon was very productive (please see the chart below for details). It was full of God's favor and opportunities to teach, preach, pray, visit people, evangelize, baptize, and also, for two days, assist a 12-year old boy called Francisco.



This boy has a gap in his cognition, and it is very hard for him to learn. He feels ashamed because he doesn't match the performance of his friends in school. However, Francisco loves swimming and diving in the large Amazon river, as if that would be his backyard pool. I met Francisco alone at the porch of an abandoned house, when I was walking back from a church meeting in the Indian village at 11 PM. He followed me and asked if he could sleep in the same place where I was going to sleep. How could I deny shelter to a lonely child in an Indian village?

Francisco knew little about Jesus. I used a paper folding to catch his attention and explain the Gospel in a simple way, telling him about the Lord, and how close He is to help people in need. Francisco's eyes were distant and restless. It seemed that he couldn't believe my words. Along with the missionary couple that hosted me, I took time to listen to him. Suddenly Francisco turned to the missionary lady and raise the question, “Do you want to be my mom?”

The lady started to cry. She talked to her husband and they agreed that Francisco could spend the night in their house. Francisco's story, his needs and the trauma of having seen his father being killed in a violent way, had a profound effect in all of us. In a minute, I felt like having no hope for a miracle in the life of that child who was so mutilated in his beauty and infancy. But, in spite of my lack of hope, the miracle took place. Francisco declared his decision to follow Jesus. Later, that missionary teacher told me, "There are several 'Franciscos' here in the village, they have difficulty to learn because they're rejected by their parents." After this experience, my vision and commitment to serve those people in the Amazon and south of Brazil was renewed and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share this with you.

There are several 'Franciscos' here in the village, that need help!



I invite you to continue to help me take the paralytic man's bed to Jesus. He is making miracles in the urban community where Giordano Bruno lives, and in the Indian village where Francisco lives. You can learn more about this ministry and a special project that will enable local people reach out to needy children by visiting our website at www.harvestfoundation.org (go to "where we serve > Brazil"). Together, let us approach the Throne of Grace on behalf of this ministry. Please pray for (1) my next mission trip to Brazil, on July 11; (2) provision for the building project (see it on our website at www.harvestfoundation.org > donate); and (3) healing for Clauber, our volunteer in the Amazon – he hurt his knee in an accident driving a motorcycle and is in need of an orthopedic surgery, which is costly and only available in cities far away from his home.

<i>Place/People</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Number of Participants</i>
Amazon, among the Ticunas	Teaching/training using Harvest curriculum to reach specific groups, such as families, youth, teachers of public schools, believers participating in a Mission Conference, tribal chiefs, and church leaders	43 families 76 youth 25 public teachers 233 participants in conference 3 Chiefs 36 church leaders
South of Brazil, Harvest Team	National Summit	21
YWAM Belo Horizonte, missionaries in training	Teaching and networking (DTS, Development Training School)	27
7 Indian Villages: St Francisco, Cordeirinho, Feijoal, Guanabara, Bom Caminho, Porto Espiritual, Atalaia	Church planting and community development, prospecting new areas for pioneer outreach in the Amazon jungle	7 leaders (our local team) reaching to 4 key people with potential to become leaders and 18 families
Amazon, Cuagu Nutrition Center	Teaching and mentoring	16 school teachers and YWAMers
Life Baptist Community Church Brusque Community Church Apostolic Church of Camboriu	Preaching, teaching and Mentoring	370 115 8
States of Parana and Santa Catarina, Harvest team	Technical training and networking Administration with local team	6
TOTAL	15	1008

Make checks payable to Harvest and send to PO Box 2670, Phoenix, AZ 85002. Include a note with the check designating the funds to "Oliveira ministry". If you'd like to donate specifically for the building project, please designate to "Building Project in the Amazon". All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your participation!