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# On the Parker's Bench

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## Welcome Back Eagle Rock!

Dear Prayer Partners,

We are preparing for our second team from Eagle Rock Baptist Church in Los Angeles, who will be coming on July 3rd. They will be working again in Pedreira helping Pastor Carlos to build a new church and grow the kingdom of God. This year they are also starting a new ministry at a children's shelter called Lar Feliz (Happy Home) in Holambra.

Holambra is a town settled by the Dutch and the name is a conglomerate of the two

country names: Holland and Brazil. They are known throughout Brazil for their beautiful flowers and each



2010 team with Pastor Carlos at the Christ the Redeemer statue in Pedreira

year have a flower festival called the Expoflora. In the countryside of Holambra

lies Lar Feliz, run by missionaries Paul and Jill Van Opstal. Paul is from Holland and Jill is from the U.S. Lar Feliz has between 60 and 80 children year round that they care for spiritually and physically. They also have a working tree farm where they teach the children all about what it means to run a business. ERBC's team will be doing a VBS there as well as painting, making picnic tables and each night have a fun time with the children, one of which will be a talent show!

## Urgent Prayer Request:

- We would really appreciate prayer for our son and daughter-in-love Ian and Jessie. Jessie is pregnant with their fourth child and has some significant com-

plications. The physicians have planned her cesarean for September 7th, but are considering an earlier date. Please pray for her health, the health of the baby, and

that they both would make it through the delivery without problems. Please pray also that Ian and Jessie's hearts would be at peace.

## What do you guys do with your time?



When you live in a big city, making a cow friend is fun!

Now there's a question!

For the first year after we arrived, we spent the entire year in language school. But since the end of language school, we spend our days searching for prospects for American teams, preparing for those teams, and participating in our Brazilian church's outreaches.

For example, last week we went to Parque dos Sonhos an adventure park, to plan the day off for Team Eagle Rock. This required me to make friends with a cow! (Like I needed encouraging...) NOT! But the truth is, just to find Parque dos Sonhos took asking around, checking out a few places that weren't suitable, asking

around again, searching the internet, e-mailing back and forth and then spending a full day driving there, checking out the facilities and driving back. Nothing goes quickly in a foreign country! Nonetheless, I did get to make friends with a cow and our lives are FULL of adventure!

"Sousas is a difficult place to evangelize because of the presence of a significant amount of gated communities."

### Short-term opportunity: Igreja Batista em Sousas

Pastor Rodrigo Fontana has been pastoring this church since 2002. Working with his wife Tatiana, the church has grown to 75 members. There are 36,000 people in Sousas, 80% of which are Roman Catholic. Sousas is a difficult place to evangelize

because of the presence of a significant amount of gated communities. Their biggest felt need is help with evangelism. The presence of Americans has the potential to bring people out from behind gates to meet and learn about the American peo-

ple. Pastor Rodrigo could also use help with things like VBS, door-to-door evangelism, evangelistic dinners in the homes of church members, evangelistic services for adults, and other possibilities. If you're church is interested, contact us!

### Short-term opportunity: Missao Monte Sinai

Pastor Luis Carlos dos Santos pastors this small church of 25 members but 55 attendees. Hortolandia has 160,000 people, 60% of them being

Roman Catholic. The biggest problems in the area served by Pastor Luis are drugs and violence. He needs encouragement, help with evangelizing and some minor construction. Ideas for service at

this church would include VBS, construction, door-to-door evangelism, evangelistic dinners in the homes of church members, evangelistic services for adults and a pancake breakfast! Contact us!



The neighborhood served by Missao Monte Sinai

# What does it mean to serve the Lord?



Projeto IDE's kitchen team in Lar Feliz

The tallest man in this picture is Carlos de Paola, a member of Projeto IDE. He and his wife Lidia (standing on his left) have participated in every outreach we have had.

Carlos and Lidia don't just work in the kitchen. They do yard work, clean up messes and are always helping no matter how dirty the work. They have been an inspiration to us of what it means to serve the Lord. Nothing is too hard, too dirty or too beneath them to do. In Brazil-

ian culture, the normal prejudice is not about the color of your skin, but about social class. Carlos and Lidia are probably the wealthiest members of our church, but their faith in Christ has crossed the barrier of social class and made them into the united family of God. Is it any wonder that we love them?

“Because you love us!”

## Projeto IDE (Project Go) at work...

Our Brazilian church Igreja Batista Memorial has a group (about half of the church) who participates bi-monthly in outreaches to other churches and ministries. Last month, we served at Lar Feliz caring for the 60 children (without help!) for the day. We served

breakfast, lunch and a snack, had a morning service with singing, Bible lessons, clowns and puppets and in the afternoon played games and cleaned. It was a wonderful day and allowed the 40 employees of Lar Feliz to get some much needed training.

Sorry we don't have pictures of the children, but security issues prevent us from sharing them. During his videoing of the event, Greg asked one of the young girls if she knew why we were there. Her answer, “Because you love us!”

## Just Clowning Around

Those of you who know me, know how much I love to laugh and joke around. Often I've thought of doing some clown training, but never actually took the step to do it. One day, the team leader of Projeto IDE asked if I would like to do a clown skit for the

next outreach. I jumped at the chance! Since then, my friend Dayane and I have done clown skits at pretty much every outreach, and we usually have another “clown in training.” Since it was going well, I made some outfits from a pattern my Mom pur-

chased for me. They're still not complete, but are a work in progress. :) Who knew that God would take me all the way to Brazil to satisfy a desire of my heart!



Our clown team at Lar Feliz



## Projecto IDE/Project GO

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Greg and Rebecca Parker host short-term teams from the United States to assist and serve struggling Brazilian churches and ministries. They serve with Converge Worldwide (formerly the Baptist General Conference) whose goal is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people groups around the globe. They have two children Ian, who is married to Jessica and Megan. They are the proud grandparents of Emilie, Taryn and Chase and (still in the oven) Marisa.



## More prayer requests...

- That the Lord would touch the hearts of churches who would be willing to send teams to Brazil
- That the teams that are coming would be able to help the church in Brazil to grow and that the team members themselves would be able to see God through the eyes of a different culture
- That our financial support would increase to where it needs to be.

### • Thank you for praying!

You can change the world through prayer!



Greg and I at Parque dos Sonhos (Dream Park)

- That the Lord would help us to be effective in our life and ministry
- For continued improved health and strength for ministry
- That the Lord would show us the places in Brazil who could really use the help of American teams