

History and Update on Brazil

In June of 1995, ICC personnel attended the General Conference session held in Utrecht in the Netherlands. We had a booth there where we featured our projects from around the world. During this conference Pastor Daniel dos Santos, the ADRA director for the Central Sao Paulo Conference in Brazil, stopped by our booth and began talking about our ministry. He became excited and brought his wife to join him. They had started a very similar project in Brazil. They were using the same philosophy as the ICC founders had felt impressed to use, and had been convicted of the same ministry by reading the same material. They had found a kindred spirit. Since they were just beginning and ICC had been around for quite a few years by then, it was their desire to work together.

Pastor dos Santos asked if we would consider helping them find sponsors and give advice when needed to his project. Towards the end of 1996, ICC administration made a trip to visit the Grandma Josephina Orphanage and was impressed to help where we could. ICC provided some assistance and counsel regarding operational funding and guidance in children's services, and ICC serves as the umbrella organization for receiving and transferring funds. We began finding sponsors for the children in this program and managing the sponsorship program for them.

The project consisted of 4 homes, a church, office, administration home, and a farm. The farm had cows, sheep and chickens that the children helped care for.

Brazil is a country of contrast. There are the very rich and the very poor living next to each other. Not only was ADRA operating this orphanage, they also built and operated daycare centers through out the Sao Paulo region of Brazil. These centers took in children, from the slum area - "flavaelas" - of the cities, before and after school. The children attended school half the day and spent the other half at the day care centers. Here they received help completing their homework, were fed two meals a day, given the opportunity to take a shower and learn proper hygiene, taught crafts and given the opportunity to learn computer skills. Small gardens were planted where the children spent some time each day working. The children that were accepted into the program were school age - 6 to 15 years old. They were the children at the greatest risk on the streets.

In April of 2001, ICC administration made a second visit to the project. They also toured some of the expanding daycare centers, and made a visit to the island in northern Brazil which is home to the Karaja Indian tribe. During this visit, ICC decided to help facilitate sponsorships for the day care centers. ADRA directors would find sponsors in the US who would send funds to sponsor children in the centers through ICC and we would manage these sponsorships. We also decided to sponsor the first young lady of the Karaja tribe to attend university. She wanted to become a teacher and go back and work with the children of her tribe.

Last year Pastor Daniel dos Santos was called to Rwanda to be the ADRA director there. A new person has taken his place in Brazil.