

The Bounty of the LORD in BRAZIL

CC Corvallis spreads the Gospel

Brazil and Soccer....the combination of the two brings adoration from the entire world. From Pelé to their recent World Cup victory, the country has dominated the planet's most popular game. Though fanatical about soccer and without equal, the country lacks the same knowledge and zeal when it comes to the Gospel.

CC Corvallis ministers in a college town in northern Oregon. Having grown from 17 to 800 in 7 years, God is using the church to teach the Bible in Brazil.

For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13

story and photos by Tom Price

GOD'S HAND OF PROTECTION

Early on the morning of September 11, 2001, 50 weary short-term missionaries waited on a plane as it sat on the runway in Atlanta. They were halfway home, preparing for the last leg of their journey. Eager to return to Oregon after weeks of outreach in Brazil, the CC Corvallis team had shared the Gospel in the South American country.

Before take-off, the pilot informed the passengers that a wing malfunction would temporarily interrupt their departure. Later the captain apologized for another delay, as a fuel tank gauge broke.



A young girl waves a Brazilian flag during a festival in Sao Vicente.

The giant aircraft, loaded with jet fuel for the long trip across the United States, had been scheduled for departure after 8:00 a.m. on that fateful morning.

Soon after, a terse announcement was made that the passengers must disembark immediately. The captain, who had seemed unconcerned only moments before, now ordered commands without explanation.

Once back in the terminal, they watched the TV monitors in horror as the Twin Towers burned, hit by passenger jets. An airliner hit the Pentagon and another crashed in Pennsylvania.

The FBI confirmed over the next several weeks that they had discovered box cutters hidden on jumbo jets in Atlanta. It was also confirmed that terrorists had used box cutters to overpower the crews on the planes successfully hijacked.



A Corvallis outreach team pantomimes the anguish that Christ suffered.



Pastor Tim Rogers teaches at Calvary Chapel Sao Vicente. Marcio Sa translates.



Tim and wife, TaLisa, with their children, Bethany and Abra-



Tom Jones, left, greets a new believer.



Becky Ludeman disciples new believers.



Anthony Cornell gives translator Lucy Prazeres a hug. Lucy spent the year in Corvallis at their School of

WHY BRAZIL?

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? Romans 10:14b

Rob Verdeyen, pastor of CC Corvallis, had just won a contest at the Calvary Chapel Senior Pastors' Conference in Murrieta. A travel agency held a promotional drawing for round trip tickets to Sao Paulo.

"What am I going to do with tickets to Brazil?" Rob thought to himself. He wondered whether he could take his wife, Susie, on a vacation.

Unbeknownst to him, his assistant pastor, Mark Troncale, was anxiously waiting for Rob's return. Mark was working on a proposal concerning Brazil that envisioned CC Corvallis reaching out to the former Portuguese colony. His wife, Shawna, had heard Sharon Ries and Janie Alfred tell of their experiences as missionaries in South America. She felt that God spoke to her... Brazil was where the Lord wanted them to go share the Gospel and plant churches.

Mark caught his wife's vision. His own excitement grew. He had just returned from a mission trip to Hungary with the High School and College group that he leads. But how could his young church justify paying for airfare to Brazil?

He shared his vision with Curt Duever, also an assistant pastor. Curt began to laugh. Pastor Rob had just phoned and shared the story about winning airline tickets to Brazil. Though he desired to use the tickets himself, the Lord showed Rob that He had something else in mind. Mark traveled to Brazil using the tickets.



Tim Rogers and Marcella, a Brazilian translator, share the Gospel on the beach at Sao Vicente.



Kevin and Claudia Miller minister in Sao Paulo. They are from Calvary International Fellowship in San Diego.



Four Calvary Chapel church plants are located in Brazil. Campo Mourao is the site of the Bible College/orphanage which has been offered to CC Corvallis.

After spending some time in Sao Paulo, Mark journeyed to Sao Vicente, an ocean resort town, where he felt God's leading. Mark returned to Corvallis and immediately began training a team in short-term missionary work, planning to return that following summer.

"We did outreaches on the beach and in public schools, where literally thousands came to Christ," Mark said. "But there was not a solid Bible teaching church for them to attend. We knew it would be disobedient not to return and begin a church to disciple the new Christians."

"After coming back to America, a friend from CC Costa Mesa's high school, Tim Rogers, called and said that he felt that God was calling his family to Brazil." They moved to Corvallis for six months of preparation and became CC Corvallis's first missionary family in Brazil.

And how shall they bear without a preacher?
Romans 10:14c

WORK OF THE LORD

In early September 2001—spring in South America—the Atlantic Ocean beaches glistened with white sand and blue water. A gentle breeze cooled sunbathers. Tim Rogers, pastor of CC Sao Vicente, shared the Gospel there. Many Brazilians—sunbathers, surfers, and beach-soccer players—are open to hear the good news. Curious crowds gather around the American as he speaks through a Portuguese translator.

"This is the truth of the Gospel that I am telling you," Tim shouts above the crash of the waves. "If you receive these truths, you can have the assurance of eternal life with God. Jesus became sin for us on the cross and bore our transgressions."

Many in the crowd got closer. "This is what God has done for us and if the Holy Spirit is working on your heart, then you need to respond. We can lead you in prayer to know that you will have eternal life with Jesus." Soon dozens of beach-goers huddled around Tim.

Tim and TaLisa Rogers felt God calling them to pastor the first church plant in Sao Vicente. Despite being seven months into a



John Hwang, from CC Corvallis, shares the Gospel in a high school in Sao Vicente. He returned to Brazil to plant a church this summer in Curitiba.

A Turning of his Heart

Journeyman missionary John Hwang

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

John 11:40

John Hwang is a well-known Calvary Chapel missionary pastor and Bible teacher. He began a Calvary Chapel in the town of Curitiba in Brazil this past August. Tom Jones and Chris and Michele Cross, all from CC Corvallis, will assist him.

John was a missionary in Hungary in 1990 before returning to America to aid in the youth ministry in San Diego. He began a Calvary Chapel in Monmouth, Oregon, after returning from England. He directed the CC Corvallis School of Ministry for the last several years.

While the entire congregation at CC Corvallis had been excited about the work in Brazil, John felt he was called to Europe. He wasn't eager about South America.

Upon arrival in Brazil, John felt God change his spirit completely. He was filled with a burden for the lost like never before.

"God is so amazing," said John. "He knew of my love for Europe. Curitiba is a transplanted European city in South America. The look, smell, even the mass transit, feels like Europe." He was asked to teach at future pastors' conferences in the area.

John grew up at CC Costa Mesa. He credits Richard Cimino, his high school pastor, with having a dramatic impact on his Christian walk. Richard now pastors CC Grass Valley.

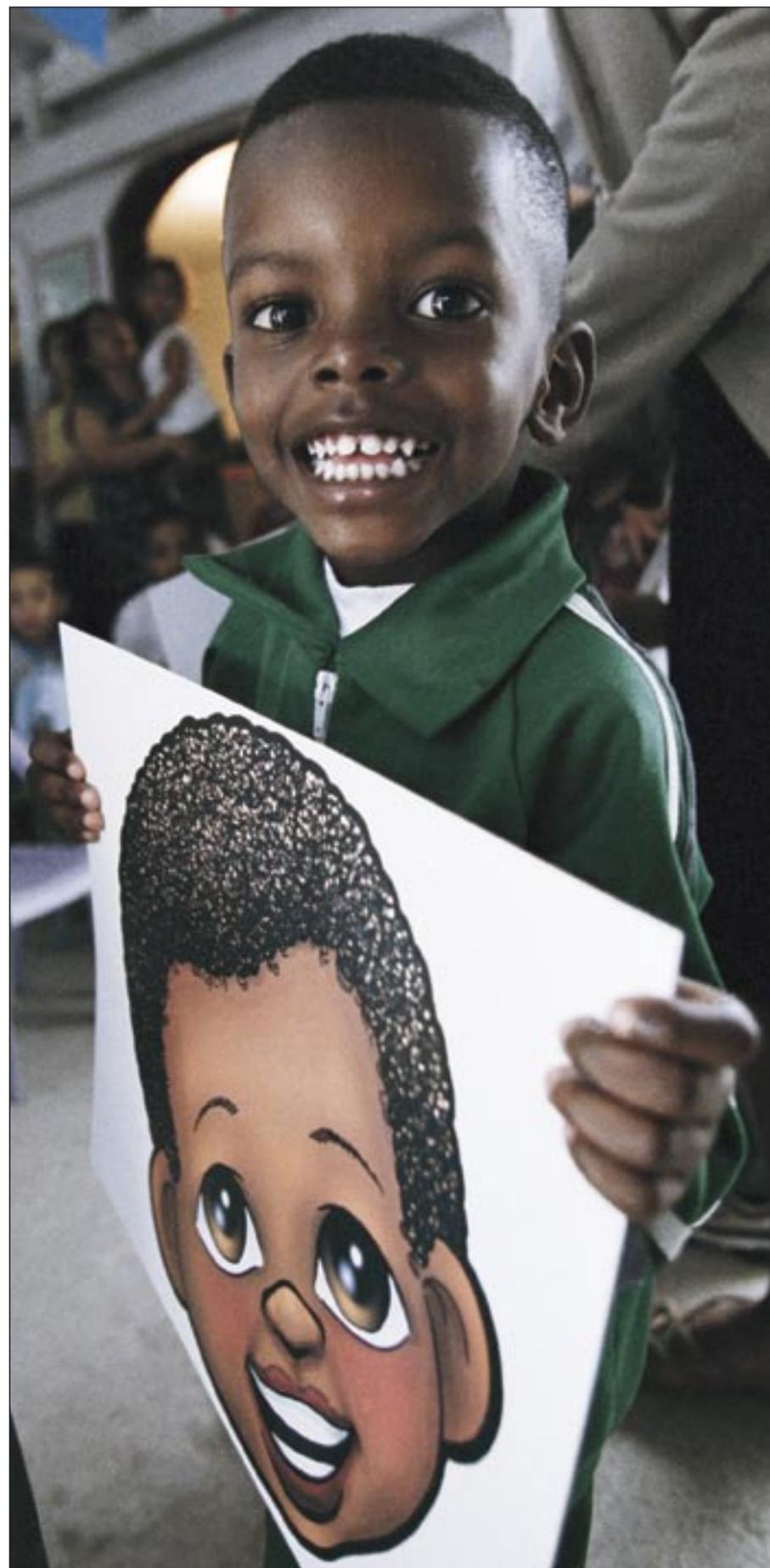
And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.
Jeremiah 3:15 KJV



Mark Troncale, right, high school and college pastor, made the initial visit to Brazil. Tom Jones is on the left.



Tom Jones leads the pantomime in a high school in Sao Vicente.



A Brazilian boy holds a poster as CC Corvallis missionaries visit a day care center located in the

Celso Nascimento, Joe Munk, and Anthony Cornell share the Gospel with children from the slums. Celso, a native Brazilian, leads the outreach there for CC Sao Vicente.



CC Corvallis missionaries pray before an outreach.

difficult pregnancy, TaLisa and Tim felt the Holy Spirit confirm that they should have the baby in Brazil. This would allow them to have permanent residence in the country. After the birth of their baby, the church began to take firm root in Sao Vicente.

Eventually Tim found a facility for the church, and a supporting team of missionaries from Corvallis joined them.

“The world adores the soccer exploits of this country,” said Tim. Brazilians would have an open door to countries that would be closed to Americans.” Noting the similarities of facial characteristics to Middle Eastern people, Tim dreams of training Brazilians in the Gospel and sending them off to Muslim nations, armed with a ball, yellow soccer shirt, and Bible.

“I think that God has us here to train up leaders that will ultimately share the Gospel with other nations.” Evangelical Christianity has been experiencing growth here but there is a lack of knowledge in understanding God’s Word.

Mark and Tim’s pastor at Costa Mesa High School had been Rob Verdeyen, now senior pastor of CC Corvallis. Tim had become the youth pastor at Calvary Chapel Petaluma in the San Francisco area. He led outreach teams to Sudan, Russia, Hungary, and Japan. He met his wife, TaLisa, at a pastors’ conference while she was finishing Bible College at Twin Peaks. Both sensed that God wanted them in the mission field. They trained with Emmaus Road, a missionary training facility in Mexico with Neal Pirolo.

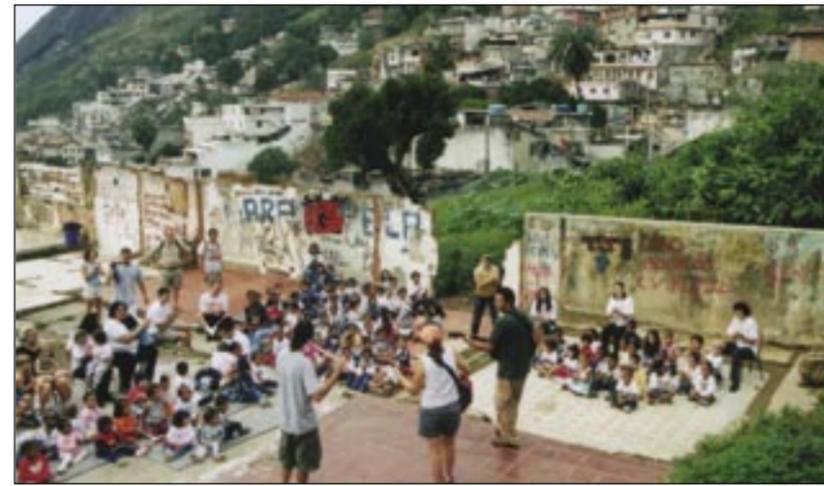
OTHER CHURCHES ARE PLANTED

And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

Romans 10:15a

Rio de Janeiro, known world-wide for its promiscuous attitude, proved to be a challenging environment for Jason and Beth Eisenbeis as they began Rio Calvary Fellowship last summer. They too had been leaders in the College Ministry at CC Corvallis.

Ryan and Darcy Sugai, graduates of Oregon State University, had been leaders in the College Ministry at CC Corvallis before feeling



Another group from CC Corvallis does outreach in Recife.

photo by Janelle Banasek



Pastor Tim Rogers, CC Sao Vicente, baptizes a new believer.



Joe Munk, right, and Tom Ewers, back right, pray with new believers on the beach in Sao Vicente. Tom returns next year with his family as a missionary at the orphanage and Bible College in southern Brazil.



The CC Corvallis men work on a home in the slum area.



John Hwang, left, and Matt West tear out flooring as they assist a single mom living in



A youngster plays behind his home. Slums on the outskirts of town, favelas, are full of disease as raw sewage flows underneath the homes. Missionaries are reaching out to the least of these, imprisoned by their

called to pastor in Brazil. Many of the students they disciplined are assisting at Calvary of Christ in Recife in northeast Brazil.

Kevin and Claudia Miller, from CC International in San Diego, are ministering in Sao Paulo as well.

A DEFINITE CONFIRMATION

Long-term visa status is very difficult in Brazil. Several of the missionary families have opted to have their babies there, which give them the ability to secure the long-term visas and stay in Brazil.

“One of our greatest blessings has been two families in leadership that had been trying

to have a baby for over five years,” said Rob. “When they committed to moving to Brazil, they found out that they were pregnant.”

The church body at CC Corvallis was excited about the Brazilians openness to the Gospel and began praying earnestly for God to open other doors.

A retiring American missionary wanted to turn over his life’s work to Calvary Chapel and offered it to CC Corvallis. After visit-

ing the facility, the pastors felt this was an answer to their church’s specific prayers for opportunities in Brazil. A fully equipped and operational Bible college and an orphanage sets on 75 acres in southern Brazil. Fertile farmland and a river with a waterfall that powers the property’s private generators surround it. Tom Ewers, an elder at CC Corvallis, and his wife Donna are planning to move their family to Brazil to lay the groundwork for the ministry that lies ahead.

“We are praying that the Lord will bring many other churches to get involved and catch this vision for Brazil.”

Pastor Rob Verdeyen



“God has opened a great and effective door for Calvary Chapel in Brazil,” said Pastor Rob Verdeyen. “This is stretching us beyond belief. We are praying that the Lord will bring many other churches to get involved and catch the vision for Brazil. Several short-term missionaries have returned to Brazil to minister full-time and many others are waiting for a chance to serve the Lord at the orphanage.”



Mindy McArthur, a missionary from CC Corvallis, hugs a little girl that doesn't want to let go. CC Sao Vicente is ministering in this slum area.

As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10: 15b

Christianity has experienced growth in Brazil, but there is an alarming lack of knowledge in understanding God's Word. CC Corvallis asks that churches nationwide pray about partnering with them in the Bible college and orphanage, sending outreach teams and missionaries, and assisting in whatever way the Lord leads them. 🙏



Celso Nascimento, a missionary from CC Sao Vicente, leads the outreach in one of the impoverished areas. Many in the slums have given their lives to Christ.

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