

March 2009
Sertão II Project
Northeast Brazil



THE **OUTREACH**
FOUNDATION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

Dear friends and partners of the Sertão Project,

Greetings on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of Evangelism of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPIB) and Rev. Jango Miranda, Coordinator of the Sertão II Project.

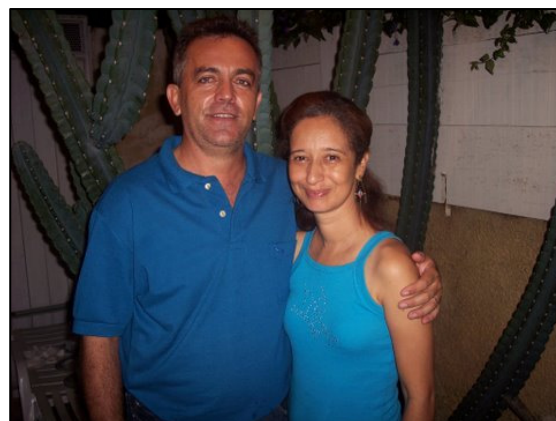
As most of you know, the Sertão I Project (cities of Patos, Malta, São Sebastião, São Mamede, all in the state of Paraíba, and Caicó in Rio Grande do Norte) are now an official part of the Presbytery of the Northeast. These congregations are moving forward in growth and maturity. Several of the missionaries who had been assigned to these fields have now relocated to the new work in the Sertão II Project.

Looking further west, still in the state of Paraíba, Sertão II Project is well underway in three cities: Pombal, the first city of Sertão II west from Sertão I; Sousa, further west; and Cajazeiras, on the border of the states of Paraíba and Ceará. These new fields are into their third year of existence.

POMBAL - Missionary couple Raimundo and Valdívía Couto.

The work of the congregation is progressing well and is in a good location with comfortable facilities. There is ample space for the children. The congregation is becoming well-accepted in the community with increasing attendance. Through discipleship training, leaders are already doing their part to help the church grow. A social outreach project, "peewee" soccer, is being led by a student intern from the Center for Missionary Training in Natal.

Rev. Jango noted in his update that he is very grateful for the "Vacation Project 2009", which consists of young people from other regions of Brazil who spend their summer vacations working with the lay missionaries. This year, more than ever before, the program brought good fruits and great motivation for the work in Pombal and especially for Raimundo and Valdívía.



Raimundo and Valdívía Couto

On a personal note, for those of you who know Raimundo and Valdívía, their family news will be of interest. They are now grandparents of Sofia, daughter of Lívia and Bruno, who live in Vitória, Espírito Santo, and work with a sister denomination. Raquel is married to Leandro who works for a plumbing company, and they live in metropolitan Natal. Iuri, still single, is employed in Vitória, ES where he also lives. After all the children moved to their present locations, Raimundo and Valdívía welcomed into their home and care an adolescent, Gabriela, from the São Sebastião congregation. She has lived with them for over a year and is a big help in the Pombal congregation.

SOUSA - Missionary couple Nataniel and Cláudia and their son Diego.

The beginnings of the ministry in Sousa have been very difficult. The people are new in their faith; this missionary couple did not have leaders to share in the work and, so, Nathaniel became very discouraged. Then in August 2008, he found a good location for their meetings. And to the couple's joy, since the "Vacation Project 2009," several wonderful people have begun to participate in the life of the congregation. Nathaniel feels now a sense of encouragement and joy. An additional location in a school near their home has been secured where they have established a small music school that is well attended by children and youth.

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CAJAZEIRAS - Pastor Jango and Sandra; Missionary couple Adão and Ana Lúcia.

This congregation with 80 people in regular attendance is meeting in a storefront on a main street in a neighborhood of Cajazeiras. It has been necessary to rent a house next door to the store to accommodate the children's ministry. The room in the store will seat only 70 people and many Sundays it overflows.

Rev. Jango and Sandra moved to Cajazeiras in February where he is now the pastor. They have observed that there is much work to be done in the areas of organization and teaching of the Word. Adão's gifts are to bring people into the church setting. Jango will complement these gifts with his focus on leadership, discipleship and administration. Adão has requested Jango to organize and lead a ministry to couples. The first Sunday in March at the worship service where the Lord's Supper was served, the foundation for this new ministry was laid to strengthen the life of the congregation. There will be about 12-15 couples who will participate in this program. Rev. Jango plans to establish an "Administrative Table" (a provisional type of session until the church becomes officially organized). Jango and Sandra are awaiting the birth of their daughter Ana Clara in April!

God is indeed blessing this work with a recognized and respected presence in the city. Cajazeiras has been chosen for the construction of cisterns to catch the water during the rainy season. The cost of each cistern is \$750 (U.S. dollars). If your church would like to participate in this project, funds can be sent to The Outreach Foundation (see address below).



Adão and Ana Lúcia

The highest priority for the Pombal and Cajazeiras congregations is the purchase of land and the beginning of construction as requested in the Sertão II Project Budget of 2008. The amount for this is \$5,000 (U.S. dollars), and funds for this can also be sent to The Outreach Foundation.

On behalf of the staff of the Sertão II Project, the leadership of the IPIB, and The Outreach Foundation, we thank you for your commitment, prayers, and support of this growing work in Northeast Brazil. "May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." (II Peter 1:2)

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Dick and Bibby Swayze
Consultants for Brazil
The Outreach Foundation

Amount needed in 2009

The Outreach Foundation seeks to raise a total of \$30,000 in 2009 for the Sertão II Project. For more information about their ministry and how you can help, please contact The Outreach Foundation.