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## News from The Forgotten Africa - May 2009

Contributed by The Forgotten Africa

Keith & Deborah, IMB Missionaries

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### Upcoming Events

May 19-28: Deb and I are leading a college volunteer team from Baltimore, Maryland, to have an impact for God's glory in the new works/churches I have just mentioned. June 2-5: Our Brazilian home church pastor, and I will be visiting quilombos, Cazinhas and Baixao de Felix in Jeremoabo and those in Cachoeiro. Pray that the Lord will show Pastor Paulo which Quilombo our church is to adopt.

June 6-12: Deborah and I will be traveling to the "Entrance of The Amazon", the city, Sao Luiz, Maranhao, where we will be speaking to some Baptist state convention leaders and pastors to seriously consider doing strategic planning to reach the over 642 quilombo villages in their state. We will also be traveling to locate and survey some of these Quilombos. Pray that the Lord will give us favor with the convention leaders, pastors, and lay people of Sao Luiz, Maranhao.

June 24-30: Deborah and I will be traveling to the state of Pernambuco to locate and survey several of their 92 quilombos with our IMB Brazil people researcher/analyzer. The last few days of this particular week we are to have, Mark Johnson, the Cluster leader of Brazil to accompany us in visiting several of the Quilombos we will have visited.

July 1-3: Deborah and I will attend an annual missionary meeting to enjoy a time of fellowship with our missionary colleagues. Also we will have some reorientation of the strategic changes which are beginning to take place in all of Brazil.

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Dear Praying Friends,

Please know that we are so grateful for your prayers. They sustained Deborah and me, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, the past two months during my knee replacement and rehab. With the Lord's help I have been walking without crutches since two weeks after my surgery. Also, I can bend my new knee at a 131 degree angle which is 6 degrees better than any knee replacement client my physical therapist has worked with. Praise The Lord!

Listen To This!

God has been moving by His Spirit among the quilombolas the past few months. In the Quilombo, Engenho da Ponte, there are now at least 57 Christian quilombolas. Among the new converts are 14 Quilombola Men! For over two and a half years there were only two men in this village who had committed their lives to Christ and remained faithful. Now, there are 16 Christian Quilombola men. God is demolishing the stronghold of alcoholism in this village! GLORY! Presently, there is at least one Christian in 26 of the 30 homes of this quilombo. There are not many die hard Spiritists left. Pray for Pastor Edson of the First Baptist Church of Cachoeiro whose church has adopted Engenho da Ponte.

A second quilombola church was started in the Quilombo called Tombo during the month of February. It is situated on top of a big hill where one can see all the other Quilombo villages of Cachoeiro in the valley below. There are 6 new converts in this quilombo. I had the privilege of sharing the gospel and praying with the four ladies that attended the first meeting. There are tons of kids attending the two weekly services on Wednesday and Sunday along with some young people and a few men.

A third quilombola church was initiated in March as quilombolas, Edson and his wife Myra, have been holding Bible studies in the Quilombo called Imbiara. Edson's sister lives in this village. A mule and a cart have been purchased for Edson, Myra, and a couple of quilombolas of Engenho da Ponte to travel several kilometers to hold meetings in this neighboring village.

A fourth quilombola church is to be initiated by the end of May in a neighboring Quilombo called, Palma. WOW! God Is Soooo Good! Myra's father and mother live in this village and for the last few months the quilombolas there have been requesting that a church be started. YES! It's clear to see that's it's a God Thing!

## Quilombolas reaching Quilombolas w/Gospel

Thing about something with me for a moment. In October of 2005, there were NO Christians in Engenho da Ponte. Yet now, relatively new Christians are reaching their neighboring villages for the Lord. There was only one lone Christian quilombola teacher from the Quilombo, Imbiara, who taught in Engenho da Ponte and prayed from January, 2005, to October, 2005, that the Lord would send messengers of the Gospel to this Demon worshipping, on their way to HELL, village. Volunteers from Northwest Georgia Baptist Association worked with us the end of October through the first few days of November to see the first few quilombolas to receive the Lord. Ironically and tragically, this young prayer warrior, Evon, has returned to the stronghold of Homosexuality from which he had been set free.

Please pray that Evon would once again be delivered from the bondage of Homosexuality and return to serving the Lord.

## Earning Trust

## Sharing the Good News

Our older quilombola churches from 2002 of Cazinhas and Baixao de Felix in the county of Jeremoabo, Bahia, have received four new converts in the last couple of months. There are now, 19 faithful Christian Quilombolas in Cazinhas, along with 18-20 attenders (quilombolas attending who are not quite ready to receive the Lord) and 7 Christians and 9-10 attenders in the Quilombo of Baixao de Felix. Please pray for volunteer missionary, Elizeu Bispo, who is doing a fine job in these Quilombo works. You may remember that it was in these Quilombos that fears were spreaded among the quilombolas that our American teams were coming there for the motive of forcing them to give vital organs of their bodies so that we could sale them in the Medical Black Market. (Yes, incredible but true!)

Love, Keith & Deborah

