

News from The Forgotten Africa - July 2009

Contributed by Keith and Deborah Jefferson

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Recent and Upcoming Events

July 25-Aug 1: Deb and I hosted a volunteer team from Darlington, S.C. They worked in the new quilombo churches of Tombo, Imbiara, Imbiara 2 (On top of a small mountain) and Opalma. We had a medical clinic and did door to door evangelism. Aug 14-21: We will host a volunteer team from Fairfax, Virginia. We will do evangelism and discipleship work in the quilombo churches of Jeremoabo. They are called Cazinhas and Baixao de Felix. We will also try to restart works in Baixao dos Queles and Barroca.

Sept 5-12: We will host a volunteer team from Hampton, Virginia. They will be working in the quilombos of Jeremoabo also. ("Now I live to bring Him praise")

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You Prayed and God Blessed! Dear praying friends, Deborah and I want to thank you once again for your faithful prayers. Let me give to the short of what happened for the various events for which we requested prayer.

May 19 - 28: We received a seven member team from Morgan State University and did door to door evangelism, praying in 4 different Quilombos. 17 quilombolas prayed the sinner's prayer that week, five of whom received Christ in the first church meeting of the quilombo Opalma. At Opalma's first church meeting there were 55 quilombolas present, and a total of 78 including college students and members of First Baptist Church Cachoeiro. The last couple of Sunday services in Opalma have been running over 70 in attendance. WOW! PTL! There is so much potential in this church since it is in a larger and more developed quilombo!

June 2-4: My Brazilian home pastor, Pastor Paulo Lino, and I visited all the six Quilombo churches in Bahia, as well as praying and sharing Christ door to door. As a result of these visits our home church has already started sending some financial support for our volunteer missionary, Elizeu Bispo. Beyond this, our pastor has committed our church to purchasing a motorbike for Elizeu to start working in two other Quilombos where we have been taking American teams, Baixao dos Queles and Barroca. WOW! PTL! June 6-12: Deborah and I flew to the "Edge Of The Amazon" Sao Luis, Maranhao. In this state there are 640 Quilombos...many more than the 400 found in our state of Bahia. The county called Alcantara has 62 quilombos and we visited a few of them. This county is just an hour's ferry ride away. The most populated county of Bahia has 27 quilombos and are a 10 hours drive from our city.

Moving to New Region!

Dear praying friends, we were asked by our Cluster/Strategy Leader to consider moving to Sao Luis, Maranhao, due to the accessibility of numerous Quilombos there. Well, after meeting the Executive Secretary of the Baptist state convention of Maranhao, state leaders, and Baptist pastors in this city, Deb and I have sensed the Lord's leading to move there. We will do so by the end of September this year. The ministry to quilombolas is going so well for us in Bahia and the city of Salvador is like our home, having many friends here and a wonderful church family. We have a nice comfort zone here. Yet, the Lord has told us to go, and WE ARE GOING. By the power of His Might, we will blaze a new trail getting to the 640 quilombos of Maranhao and the 300 quilombos next door in state of Para, that's in the Amazon, lifting up the name of Lord, Jesus Christ. YES! PTL! Please pray for Deb and me as we close out our ministry in Bahia and turn it over to Pastor Edson and Missionary, Elizeu Bispo. We will remain in close contact with them and continue to recruit and send American and Brazilian teams to work with them in the Quilombos of Cachoeiro and Jeremoabo.

American and Brazilians Leaders Visit Quilombos!

June 24-30: Deb and I took IMB Brazil missionary leaders and the Evangelism Director of the state of Pernambuco to Quilombos such as "Negros do Osso" (Negros of the Bone). It was definitely an eye opener for the leaders. PTL! Beyond this, and most importantly, we were able to take Brazilian pastors of the region to visit these villages too!

It just so happened that I had preached years ago in First Baptist Pesqueira and the same pastor (Pastor Jose) is still there and has had a new work going in Negros Do Osso for four months. With our encouragement he took a group of 17+ of his members to this Quilombo on the Sunday before last. WOW! PTL!

Truck Trouble & Spiritual Refreshment!

In the middle of nowhere our truck overheated on a two-way road jammed with very fast drivers! The Lord protected us and a Good Samaritan dropped by and let Deb, me, Mark & Caron Johnson jump on the back of his truck. He took us to our pastor friend 25 kilometers away who helped us get a mechanic. The mechanic informed us that our motor had a cracked block...yes, we need another motor. Thank the Lord for the International Mission Board which takes good care of its missionaries. We will be getting a brand new motor. WOW! PTL!

July 1-3: Deb and I had great fellowship, good food, and good spiritual refreshment attending our regional missionary meeting. We heard speakers, Andy Stanley and Bill Hybels, by LDC/CD. PTL! It was a refreshing time for us.

Please remember that without your prayers we are like a ship without a sail. Your prayers are a necessity for us to be empowered by God's spirit to carry out His Work. "Nao por forza nem por poder, mas pelo meu Espirito, diz o Senhor dos Exercitos." "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of Hosts." (Zech 4:6 NAS)

Eternally Grateful,

Keith & Deborah Jefferson

