

AMBASSADORS TRAINING IN BRAZIL



***Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.***

Isaiah 55:1,6

This was the passage for my devotional one morning, with an emphasis on the fact that the price was paid by the One we read of in Isaiah 53 who suffered for us.

Dear Friends,

I had the privilege of going to Brazil for an Ambassadors training between April 29 and May 1. Attendees came from Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela as well as various parts of Brazil. They were from all walks of life--pastors, missionaries, a seminary professor, an attorney, marketing director, accountant, teachers, and factory workers.

It was very encouraging to see the work of God in the lives of so many people. We attended a Sunday service together, met for morning devotions and testimonies, worship times, evening prayer times, daily classroom meetings where we studied God's Word, explained the gospel and talked about who God is, and met on the soccer field to learn how to be more effective coaches and players and to use soccer for evangelism; we played soccer together and enjoyed fellowship with one another.

At breakfast one morning, a church leader told me that he understood the gospel for the first time; and with tears flowing, he prayed and gave his life to Christ.

I am thankful for the passionate and dedicated Ambassadors leaders in Brazil, Pastors Guilherme, Ricardo, Ze and Alexis as well as Luciano and Camila, Zuleide and many other volunteers.

The impact of the training was such that the group from Chile wants to host a training in their country, as do those from Paraguay as they seek to reach a large Muslim population where they live. Attendees from the south and northeast areas of Brazil want to have trainings in their regions as well. Some who attended the training plan to serve overseas. One of these is Lucas, who is preparing to go to Japan and do full time soccer ministry. Williams is a young man from Chile who along with his wife is praying about serving in Europe, potentially Spain. Jasiel is from central Brazil and plans to move to Ireland for full time ministry. Another brother hopes to go to Afghanistan.

Daniel Dias is a "Brazilian Michael Phelps" who has won 27 medals at 4 Paralympics. He shared his testimony with the attendees and is exploring a way to partner with Ambassadors to train leaders in sports ministry at his Institute; he also encourages churches to develop ministries for people with disabilities.



Prior to the start of the conference I visited the ministry we started in 2005 at PACA (below, left). It is amazing to see how God has grown it over the years. Muca (below, right) who was one of the very first participants now leads the ministry with over 60 people coming every week. They share the Scriptures, sing, (which was really great to hear) and have a devotional. One of the oldest participants that evening prayed for God to bring him to Himself and to change his heart of stone. A former criminal is one of the ministry leaders, and a former drug trafficker named Kareca is preparing to go to India as a missionary.



We are blessed to know and love such a wonderful God who invites us to be a part of his work. Thank you for your partnership with us; we could not do this without you.

We treasure your prayers for us and thank you for your faithful support!

With much love,
Goran & Beth