



Prayer Update

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THE ATLANTA "PROJECT" BECOMES A CHURCH

On Sunday, March 8, the vision of planting a church among the Brazilians who live in greater Atlanta, GA, became a reality. Twenty-four adults and 5 children met together for worship, with Sergio Santos preaching his first sermon to the new church.

The vision began in 2005, and that year at the National Missionary Convention held in Atlanta Wayne Long presented a challenge to Christian leaders from that city to work together to plant a church to reach the 35,000 Portuguese-speaking people who lived there. In 2006 Sergio Santos, an experienced Brazilian church planter, and his wife, Marcia, were brought from Brazil to visit the city. Later they were invited to plant the church.



Sergio preaching

Wayne retired and, in 2007, Carl Bookout became the Executive Director. He and his wife, Naomi, went to Brasilia, Brazil, to study Portuguese. Sergio and Marcia became their hosts. After returning from Brazil, Carl continued to seek financial support for the Project.

In May 2008, Sergio and Marcia stepped out in faith and came to the United States. They spent three months working with a new Portuguese-speaking congregation near New York City. They experienced life as new immigrants and learned how planting a church in the United States would differ from ones planted in Brazil. They then attended language school at YWAM in Richmond, VA, for three months so that they could communicate with American churches. Finally, First Christian Church, Mountain City, TN, adopted them for three months while they sought to practice their English and to raise more financial support. They experienced the love of a great church. The minister of First Christian, Dwayne Dickson, is a member of the HCM Board of Directors.

During this time God began to open doors for the birth of the Atlanta Project. A couple who are retiring to East Tennessee from the Atlanta area offered to let the Santos live in their home for 1-2 years. Churches in Tennessee began to catch the vision and offered financial support. Some Brazilians living in the Atlanta area were contacted, and they began to spread the word that a church would soon be planted. They, their families, and friends would gather with Sergio and Marcia that first Sunday. Christ's Church at Cobb, Acworth, GA, a four-year-old congregation holding worship in a local middle school, gave Sergio the use of an office.



Making friends in Tennessee

In the next few months, Sergio plans to develop a core group of people, hold small groups, and equip leaders. More financial support is needed to rent a building, to purchase chairs, audio-visual equipment, and other needed supplies, and to fund outreach activities. First Christian Church, Mountain City, is making plans to go to Atlanta at the end of July and hold a Vacation Bible School among the Brazilian immigrant children in preparation for a grand opening of the church September 6. Pray for God to abundantly bless this new ministry.



The gift of a house



The first worship service

Coming Events

Board of Directors Annual Meeting	October 22-24	Bay Area Christian Church, Houston, TX
Eastern Christian Convention "Calloused Hands and Feet"	November 13-15	Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, PA
National Missionary Convention "God's Gift: My Response"	November 19-22	Peoria Civic Center, Peoria, IL

Brazilian Pastors Meet Together

The last weekend of February many of the pastors of the Hisportic Christian Mission met together in Somerset, NJ, with pastors of other Brazilian Christian Churches and Churches of Christ in the United States. They have decided to meet twice a year, in a time of cooperation and renewal, to encourage each other in accomplishing the goal of winning Portuguese-speaking people for Christ.



Dwayne Dickson addresses the group with Sergio Santos interpreting

Times of Worship



Pastor Edson Gouveia from Brasilia is the main speaker.



Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Ezequias and Gábia Sales, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in Brasília, Brazil on March 14. Zeca and Gábia are planning to



come to the United States later this year to work with the Hisportic Christian Mission and the Pursuit Christian Church, Pembroke Pines, FL, in beginning a ministry to the Brazilians in the Miami, FL, area.

Toronto Project Moves Ahead

Jose and Fátima Fernandes are applying for their visas to go to Toronto, Ontario, Canada. They are praying to be able to move in May and to have the first public worship service on September 13. Their son and daughter-in-law, Guilherme and Simone, who will be helping to establish the church, are already in Canada. Currently Jose is attending St. Louis Christian College and travelling to churches in Missouri, Illinois, and Texas, seeking to raise more support. This new work is in cooperation with Impact Canada.



Prayer Needs

- Luciano and Andréia Rodrigues, that God will provide funding for their training at St. Louis Christian College, as they prepare for further ministry in Guinea-Bissau
- Jose and Fátima Fernandes, Canadian visa approval
- Finances to be raised and partnerships developed for the new HCM Projects in Atlanta, GA; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Miami, FL
- Finances to be raised to help our existing churches (rental costs and other expenses continue to escalate)
- Community Christian Church, Scranton, PA, to find a more usable location

E-mail Information

In order to communicate faster with those who support the ministry of Hisportic Christian Mission and also to save money from postage expenses, we would like to send this newsletter by e-mail to as many as possible.

If you would be willing to participate, please send your e-mail address to us, either by mail to the Mission office address or by e-mail to cbookout@hcm.org.

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Enabling Missions-minded Christians to evangelize and plant churches among Portuguese-speaking peoples in America and beyond.

