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**OCT/NOV 2003**

He who goes out weeping,  
 carrying seed to sow,  
 will return with songs of joy,  
 carrying sheaves with him.

Psalm 126:6

*The survey team of 68 people from 15 churches in 6 states.  
 (The Antioch group left early.)*

**Astoria, Queens, NY.** Saturday, October 11, sixty-eight people came together to make a difference for Jesus Christ. Their goal was to survey fifty-three blocks, discover Brazilian residents, leaders and persons interested in a closer walk with God. The survey teams prayed to spiritually take possession of the area.

Steve Salmon, Minister in Staten Island, NY, and Regino Melo, Newark, NJ, welcomed and oriented the group. "You are looking for three types of people," they instructed, "Christians who formerly served in leadership positions in Brazilian churches but not presently involved in a local church, families willing to open their homes for Bible studies or home worship services, and people who are interested in attending a Bible study in the area."

"As you go," Salmon and Melo continued, "You are to pray for those who live on the block. Pray God's blessing on all homes, businesses, schools and churches."

After the worship and orientation sessions, teams composed of at least one English and one Portuguese speaking person were formed. They picked up a package with a block number on it, prayed and set off to complete their assignments.

Information was collected in three ways. In addition to house-to-house interviews, data was collected by gift baskets raffled in Brazilian stores and street corner surveys. John Bilinski and Aleli Mariano placed baskets put together by the Greenpoint Church of Christ at the Rio Bonito Supermarket and the Copacabana Pizza & Grill. Virgil Vernon, aided by students from Lincoln Christian College, East Coast, manned three sites at key subway stops.

As teams completed their assignments, they returned to the Taiwan Union Christian Church, which served as headquarters for the event. They gave their surveys to Steve Salmon and Gail Long who entered it into computers. Many teams then opted to survey a second block.

At the close of the day, all the participants reassembled at the church to share experiences, celebrate and pray. The group also took up an offering which totaled \$697.45.



*Two survey teams in front of the church. Wayne Long and Brazilians from New Jersey and Rhode Island.*

**Discovery Day** – a Community Survey and Prayer Walk gathered 68 people from 15 churches in 6 states. In all, 132 surveys were completed. Forty-eight persons said they were not attending a local church. Nine persons reported having previously served in a  
*(continued on other side...)*

## DIA DO DESCOBRIMENTO

ALCANÇANDO VIDAS  
PARA CRISTO



*Leonardo can't speak English and David Dooley doesn't know Portuguese, but they were an effective survey team.*

leadership capacity in Brazil, 21 persons said they would open their homes for a Bible study and 17 indicated a willingness to attend a home meeting.

Wayne Long, chairman of the Astoria Project Executive Committee says, "Discovery Day is a great example of mission minded persons joining together to plant a church cross-culturally. The results speak for themselves. God's Holy Spirit brought us together and blessed our efforts. Now, the pressure is on to move ahead. Everyone needs to be contacted. Those who identified themselves as leaders need to be enlisted to help teach a discipleship series." The language and cultural differences were overcome in a cooperative effort to lay the groundwork to plant a new Portuguese-speaking church in Astoria.



*Virgil Vernon and students survey people on the street.*



*John Bilinski and Aleli Mariano witness the winning name for a gift basket at the Brazilian store.*

## *Praise the Lord*

**Tarpon Springs, FL.:** Jose and Fatima Fernandes and Wayne Long represented the Mission at the Florida Christian Convention. Thirteen persons attended a breakfast to hear about efforts to plant new Portuguese-language churches across the state. The Florida Project Fund was "kicked off" with an offering of \$190.00.

**Washington DC.:** Board members, Ray Giles, Ariosvaldo da Silva and Julio Dias met with Wayne Long, Lidia Silva and Antonio T. Lima to move ahead in leadership development. The goal is to train leaders currently in Mission-related congregations to plant new churches. A Training Conference is scheduled for April 2004 in New York state.

## *Please Remember in Prayer*

Leomar Silva, evangelist serving in Centreville, VA, fell more than 24 feet breaking his left hand, fracturing his right arm and losing his front teeth. Leomar is currently recuperating at his home 14459 Cool Oak Lane, Centreville, VA 20121-2238.

### *You are invited:*

**Eastern Christian Convention. Hershey, PA.** The Astoria Project will receive a portion of the convention's Special Projects Offering. The Mission will have a display and host a Reception following the Saturday Worship Service, November 15, 9:15 pm in Monarch Room KM. Hope to see you there!



