



# inTouch

MAY 2023  
Edition 99

The Voice of Evangelical Action (Brazil)



## Drilling wells for thirsty communities is a long, drawn-out process.

Once we are made aware of a dire situation we start visiting the community and investigate the needs of the people. We use experts to assess if it is feasible to find water nearby and once given the all-clear, a series of community meetings are held with our projects team leaders.

Such meetings make all the rules clear regarding the project (such as water is for everyone, they will become responsible for its maintenance, etc.). If the community agrees to everything a formal document is drawn up and registered.

We were alerted to the desperate needs of a Brazilian Indian community called Jatobá, near Carnaubeira da Penha, and with the residents agreement we planned for the well to be drilled, but this was not easy as the location had extremely difficult access.

Three companies turned down the contract to drill the well, but the fourth agreed to try, and it worked out well. The drill struck water 50 metres (165 feet) down and the people were very excited as water spurted from the pipes.

After testing the water for purity, piping was laid to the centre of the village, a tank erected along with taps and on 25th February we held a service when we officially handed over the well to the people. The Gospel was preached. We pray that the well will open people's hearts to the truth of Jesus' love.

Since then we have had some interesting and encouraging news - people are now coming to get water from neighbouring indigenous communities so the well is now helping over 50 families. Also one woman was absolutely delighted as she paid for a pipe and tap so she can have fresh clean water flow into her kitchen sink, something she never even dreamt of having!



## Food Parcels for Shoemakers

A delivery of basic food items, donated by the church and Patos Action School was made to families of some of the children at the School.

The families live nearby in Conjunto dos Sapateiros where the men are shoemakers but still live in absolute poverty.



Back in the 1990s God helped us to purchase an old house behind our church in Patos and this became our Care Centre, which is connected to the church via its rear.

The Care Centre houses our dentist's surgery for the poor, a food bank, the place where our soup runs are prepared, and work with the deaf and seniors.

In recent years, our Care Centre's roof needed replacing, the whole old, dilapidated building needed revamping and we hoped that as a result of its modernization the Care Centre could become even more useful in the work of the Lord. This we started to work on in 2022.

One of the needs incorporated in our revamped Care Centre will be a modern kitchen to help with the soup runs and other such church cooking activities. It will also be the basis for a sort of coffee shop for evangelism and fellowship.

When we started the building work last year, we found that the simplest way to go about the work was to knock the old building down and rebuild from scratch. This was done, as can be seen in the photograph, until we got low in money. The new walls and roof are done and later this year we hope and pray that we will be able to finish it off. Please pray with us for this project.

The church is doing what they can to raise the finances to complete the work, including holding jumble sales so that people can buy good products at very low prices. Judging by the number of people who come they are very popular.



## MEN'S HEALTH

Brazil sets a month aside each year to promote awareness of prostate cancer, which is the cause of death in 28.6% of the male population. In Patos they went one step further and held a special evening to make men aware that their health is important.

They invited men from the church to join the pupils' fathers at our Action School in Jatobá district of Patos where a doctor and nurse were waiting for them, both who work in the area. They shared with the men about health problems they might encounter, as well as running some tests including lung capacity. The men were reminded that they need to take care of their health and the importance of regular doctor's visits.



# OUR ACTION SCHOOLS

Sadly many poor children are left behind in education in the state schools as it is if they thought they are not worth teaching.

At home they received little encouragement to learn because many parents cannot read or write either. EAB was determined to help change this, and some schools were started in their churches, to teach and encourage the children in an atmosphere of love.

We now have 18 schools across our area, all with the aim of bringing these children up to the standard educational level so they can pass their exams when they are 11 years old, and can then progress to the state secondary school.

Besides learning to read, write, arithmetic and about Jesus, the children also have other activities such as art, P.E., dancing, singing, and one school even has a ballet troupe! Here is news from two of our schools.

EAB Action School in Flores has a total of 23 students. To help the children the teacher has divided the school into 2 classes - 12 students have classes at the church and, for the other 6 pupils she travels to a rural community called Saquinho to teach them near their home so that they do not need the walk to and from Flores each day.

All the pupils are very poor and live in precarious conditions, where they lack even basic toilets and often the place has a bad smell because of the lack of plumbing. The church often donates food, clothes, shoes and hygienic products.

Ana Luiza is one of the students in Flores town. The teacher invited her to accompany her for a lesson in the Saquinho community. Ana lives in a difficult financial situation, but she was very shocked at what she saw at Saquinho.

She didn't know that there was such a poor community next to where she lived. When the teacher went to her house to give her family the Christmas food hamper, she asked them to donate her own hamper to a family from the Saquinho community saying "They need it more than we do."

At Água Grande Community the school was only started last summer after Sandra from the EAB church, realized the importance of having an Action School here to help the children with their studies, especially after the pandemic period.







Sandra writes "We have started with 8 students, who we love and care about. It was clear the difficulties the children had because their government school only offered online lessons and these children didn't have laptops or mobile phones.

Cícero is 12 years old. He lives with his aunt and grandparents as his mum didn't want to raise him. No-one knows who his father is. He's already involved in smoking and drinking and doesn't know how to read or write yet.

Maiane is 9 years old. She lives with her mum and stepdad. Maiane has toxoplasmosis, which is an infection caused by a parasite.

## Patos School Feast

One of the teachers at our Patos School decided to surprise her children when one Friday evening she took them to the town centre to have a hot dog supper.

For our children this was a real treat as they would not be able to afford anything like this.

After sampling the delights they moved to a playground where just 3 see-saws brought a lot of enjoyment. An evening like this is an unknown joy for children from the slums of Patos.



People often get the infection from eating undercooked meat or from contact with cat faeces. This disease has already affected her eyesight and she wears glasses, but even with glasses she has difficulties and doesn't see well.

The rest of the children are doing well after they started studying at our school. They are still a bit behind others of their age, but we believe they are going to catch up faster with the support of our dedicated teachers."

## Our Action Schools are truly changing lives!



# MARKET GARDENS

## IMPACT OF OUR PROJECTS

Recently EAB received a consultancy by Tearfund to assess the impacts and results of the projects developed by EAB in various rural communities across the north-east of Brazil. Tearfund operates in 50 countries around the world and in Brazil, EAB was its first partner.

Tearfund selected seven organizations among the partners working on successful integral development projects so that these projects are evaluated, and replicated as model projects in other countries.



**tearfund**

### Fraternity 60+

Our EAB Social staff and volunteers took part in the first National Meeting of the Fraternity 60+, held at the Brazilian Betel Seminar, in João Pessoa.

This was a gathering of Christians over 60 years old, or those interested in revitalizing the potential of this age group in Christian service, thus raising older people to a healthier and productive life. EAB was invited to present their current projects and challenges as they carried out their work in different venues.

This invitation was received as a result of an article John wrote about the work and vision of EAB which was published by the Brazilian nationwide Christian magazine Ultimato.

### Youth Service

One Saturday evening the youth ministry held a special service at the Patos Church. They had invited many friends to the service.

The young people took part in playing instruments, singing, dancing, and interpreting for the deaf. A talk was given to help them question their choices and priorities and this was followed by a challenging talk by the youth leader, Pastor Rafael.

The evening went very well and was enjoyed by members and visitors alike.



## Baptisms

The EAB Campina Grande church at Presidente Médici held their first baptismal service in their new pool when 16 new believers were baptized, publicly professing their faith in Christ. On that same evening four people accepted Christ. Other baptisms that have taken place recently were at the Carnival Camp at Green Pastures (7), Princesa Isabel (7), and Campina Grande church in the borough of Catolé (11). We thank God for constant church growth!





Every year a large group of people take the good news of the Gospel to one of the towns where we have a church.

This year a large group of 110 mainly young people held the 10-day special outreach at Juazeirinho. They sleep on the floor of a school (on mattresses they have taken with them), do their own cooking as well as talk to people about Jesus and hold services and children's events. On the first day there was an intensive training and refresher course in personal evangelism, and that afternoon they all got into action.

Each day people go out in twos and threes, and knock on every door in the town as well as several settlements in the area. People are chatted to and invited to the daily evening services. Children's meetings are held with a good attendance where they have fun, sing new songs as well as hear the Gospel.

Now the local church of Juazeirinho has started an important role to visit all the houses that have asked for a meeting, and to encourage people to read the Bible.



## Evangelical Action Street

Tavares Town Council invited the leaders of the Evangelical Action Church to their meeting where they were told that they had agreed that the street where the church is would now be called 'Rua Ação Evangélica' (Evangelical Action Street).



This was in recognition of the varied services they provide in the municipality such as distributing sheep and goats, providing food for the hungry, wells and an Action School. They also reach out with the Gospel and see it change people's lives.

## Wild Cat Research

John was contacted one day by two researchers from the Maranhão State University with a view to researching wild cats at Green Pastures Nature Reserve.

We set up a meeting and they travelled to Green Pastures and stayed there for a night or two. They set up automatic cameras at Green Pastures and collect the memory cards every 3 months. They are sharing all their finding with us. It is a great way for us to learn and to support scientific research.

A Mirim Maracaja Cat was recently spotted on the Reserve by the researchers.



# CONTACTS

Evangelical Action (Brazil)  
Founded 1938  
Reg. Charity No. 277235

## Directors

John and Elizabeth Medcraft

## Latin America Address

Caixa Postal 23, Patos  
Paraíba, 58700-970  
Brazil  
Tel/Fax: (0055) 83 3421 3283  
eabrazil@gmail.com

## UK Chairman

Roy Dyer  
Tel: 023 8089 0796  
rddyer@gmail.com

## Treasurer/UK Office

Mrs Beryl Gough  
6 The Glade, Langley  
Southampton, Hants SO45 1ZP  
Tel: 023 8089 1021  
eabfinance@gmail.com

## Action Child UK

Marian Rashleigh  
59 Rosewall Rd, Maybush  
Southampton SO16 5DU  
Tel: 023 8034 5945  
missionmr@ntlworld.com

## InTouch Editors

John Medcraft & Marian Rashleigh

## InTouch Design

Dave Flowers  
www.watersidegraphics.co.uk



[www.eabrazil.org](http://www.eabrazil.org)

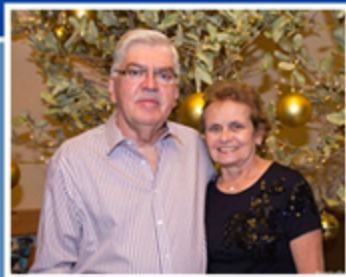
## Evangelical Action Brazil ANNUAL CELEBRATION

**Saturday 21st October 2023**

Lighthouse Community Church,  
Hardley Green, Hardley,  
Southampton SO45 3NZ

**Tea at 6pm - Service at 7pm**

It would be good to see you there!



# Make a difference with EAB

If you would like to make a donation towards the work of EAB, please send your cheques made payable to 'Evangelical Action Brazil' to Mrs Beryl Gough, 6 The Glade, Langley, Southampton SO45 1ZP.

Alternatively, if you want to make a direct payment from your bank, our banking details are:  
Lloyds - Account Name: Evangelical Action Brazil  
Sort Code: 30-91-85 / Acc No: 02385564

If you use this option please email [eabfinance@gmail.com](mailto:eabfinance@gmail.com) giving brief details of the donation. Donations can be made online at [www.eabrazil.org](http://www.eabrazil.org). Any gift, no matter how small is greatly appreciated and will be used to further God's work in Brazil. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to 'Gift Aid' your donation, please ask Beryl for a form. Thank You!

**LEGACIES:** If you are interested in leaving EAB some money, or gifts, in your will please contact the treasurer (her details are on the left) and ask for the legacy details.