

MINISTRIES UPDATE

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Bridge To Life Helps Families in Brazil

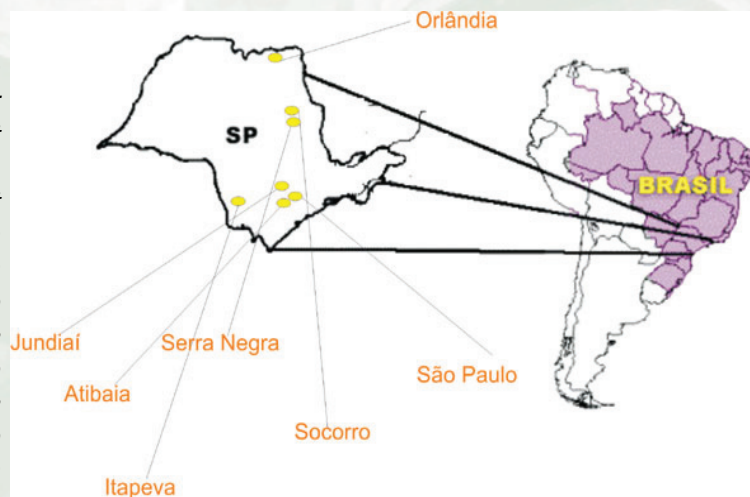
Bridge To Life has accepted the request to offer training of our Master's Craftsmen men's program and our R&R, Rebuild & Restore marriage program in Brazil. Don Smith will be traveling to Brazil September 23 and returning October 6. We are excited that we have the opportunity to train nationals so that they can minister to their own families. The following statement from Paul Gale in Brazil will help you understand their need and what we will offer.

I am pleased to be able to share with you the vision for leaders of the First Baptist Church of Atibaia, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Realizing the great need for trained Christian leaders, the FBC of Atibaia has started a small Bible training course for pastors from the interior of the State of Sao Paulo and other states close to our town. There are still many cities in Brazil with little or no Gospel witness.

The need for trained pastors is great. The Bible Seminaries that we trust are 'turning' out pastors as quickly as possible, many times putting young pastors in positions of leadership and responsibility before they have matured for that position. This has caused many pastors to become overloaded and pressured.

I should also mention that the pastors FBC in Atibaia wants to minister to are those whose churches are very small and can hardly pay their pastors. FBC has taken on the responsibility to pay for their transportation, room and board for the training courses. These courses last one week at a time and we will have 4 a year at our church. The pastors are selected by a committee based on needs and willingness to complete the course. FBC has already given courses and completed the first year of seminars for 30 pastors.

On behalf of Christian Bridge Ministries and The First Baptist Church of Atibaia, we are inviting Don to come and minister to the pastors and also to the Facilitators of the Baptist Church. My wife, Sonya, and I are responsible for the couples ministry in our church. We have grown from 5 families to over 1,000 members in just 27 years. The need for the couples ministry is great. As you well know, the family is under attack and we need to give our families all the tools we can.



In the 2 weeks that Don will be here with us we have planned two separate seminars. One for the pastors and the other for training our facilitators and families. We have 20 facilitators who care for at least 12 couples each in a small group setting. We will also be inviting young couples who we feel are the future leaders for this training. We also plan to invite area churches to be involved as well.

Sonya was raised on the mission field. Her father, Harold Reimer, along with Harry Bollback started Word of Life Brazil. Sonya will be taking on the responsibility of translating the Master Craftsman and the R&R, Rebuild and Restore into Portuguese for these seminars.

We are excited to be able to partner with Bridge To Life Ministries. We do pray that God will bless your ministry and that all will work out for our Lord's honor and glory.



Bridge To Life Ministries focuses on the needs of marriage and relational issues for the purpose of reconciling men and women to God and each other.

BTL Offers Help to Marriages at Unity

Bridge To Life had the privilege of hosting a booth at the Unity Christian Music Festival. We had over 200 people stop by our booth to register for a drawing for a free night at the beautiful bed and breakfast, The Shack, and for information on help for their marriages. Last year we had about 54 people stop by our booth. We are very pleased with the overwhelming response this year and to be able to get the word out that there are resources for their marriages.

Last evening a husband attended the R&R class in Muskegon as a result learning about BTL at Unity. To his surprise his wife came with him to the class. He commented to Bill Rexford, our teacher, after the class, "Your ministry at Unity worked."

The winner of the night at the Shack was Jeremy Nyenhuis. Congratulations!

Prayer Requests

Don's Teaching Schedule – Pray for Don's preparation and teaching for the men's retreat, couples getaway, and the training of the Master's Craftsmen and R&R in Brazil.

Couple's Getaway – 29 couples will be attending this year's getaway. Some of these couples are in need of God's intervention and healing.

New R&R Classes – Pray for the teachers and spouses attending the new R&R classes are beginning in Muskegon, Grand Rapids, and Holland.

Results of Summer Matching Gift

We are pleased to let you know that because of your generous gifts, we were able to match the \$5,000 matching gift offered by a local company. What a blessing this matching gift provided Bridge To Life to get through the summer months. God has shown His provision of our needs to allow us to minister to hurting marriages and keep families together. Thank you for standing in the gap and being used of God to meet our needs.

Upcoming Events

Are You Missing Out On Special BTL Emails?

We have begun sending out emails on updates of the ministry, prayer requests, special offers, helps for your marriage, and a few jokes on the lighter side that we thought you would enjoy. If you are not receiving our emails, email us at bridge2life@hotmail.com and we would love to add you to our list.

Sept. 4	Thurs., R&R classes began in Grand Rapids
Sept. 9	Tues., R&R classes began in Muskegon
Sept. 11	Thurs., Women's Bible study begins.
Sept. 12-13	Don Smith speaks at Wesleyan Men's Retreat.
Sept. 15	Men's Study Group begins in Muskegon. Call for information. All men are welcome. We will study, <i>The Way of the Wild Heart</i> .
Sept. 19-21	BTL's Annual Couples Getaway at The Shack
Sept. 23 - Oct. 5	Don Smith in Atibaia, Brazil to train pastors and couples in the R&R program.
Sept. 24	Wed., R&R classes begin in Holland
Oct. 12-19	BTL at Rothbury Community Mission Conference
Oct. 13-18	BTL staff attending Open Hearts Ministry's small group training.