

October 2011 Brazil

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include John 8 and there's an MP3 about this at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn8.mp3>

A most encouraging time was spent this week visiting contacts in **Brazil**. We reported in a previous Carelink the baptism of Italo in Fortaleza, a few thousand km. away from our new brother Onaldo. We visited him and are happy to report the baptism of HENRIQUE, a 26 year old lawyer from the inland city of Teresina, in Piau State, who came to us from the internet.

We gathered some contacts together in a hotel near Brazilia in the heart of Brazil. We're delighted to report the baptism and receiving into the Lord's fellowship of CEVIN, DJALMO & ELIANA, ONALDO and his son REUBEN. Djalmo and Eliana, a middle aged couple, travelled a round trip of several thousand kilometres from a small town on the Uruguay border in deep southern Brazil, all by bus and partly hitching a ride on a truck. It took them several days each way. And they did this because they wanted to be baptized, having read our literature on the internet and being amazed to find that there were others who shared their views, having read our material online. They confessed to being terribly nervous that they would come all that way and find we weren't there. Onaldo, our translator, is too sick to travel far, and so we invited them to come and be with us, which they bravely did. They had a very deep sense of wanting to connect with the Lord Jesus as their representative; they had been led to wanting baptism into Him exactly because they perceived His humanity, and that His present exaltation is upon the basis of His having lived a perfect human life despite being of our nature. There was real joy in their faces when finally they were baptized into the Lord they had come to love:



We discussed how best to spread the true Gospel further in Brazil, and it was resolved to produce a website offering as much literature as we could in Portuguese. We also produced a recording of our discussions and reflections, with Onaldo translating, and they will be available from:

<http://www.carelinks.net/audio/trinpt.mp3> - *The Real Christ as Opposed to the Trinitarian Christ*

The baptism service was also recorded in English and Portuguese and will be available from: <http://www.carelinks.net/audio/bappt.mp3>

Do share these talks with any Portuguese speaking contacts. This couple truly went on their very long and tiring way rejoicing. As you receive this Carelink, they will still be on their journey home.

The reason for the trip deep into Brazil was in order to baptize ONALDO and his son REUBEN. Onaldo is extremely spiritually mature and we felt very much that, as it were, we had need to be baptized of him and not the other way around. Born in a remote part of interior Brazil, both his elderly parents died when he was a boy. Nearby were a group of American Amish who had emigrated to the remote Brazillian interior as farmers in order to be able to live with their strange customs without criticism and worldly influences. They adopted the orphaned Onaldo and raised him in a Godly manner with great respect for the Bible, despite their curious ways. Having been raised by Americans, he is bilingual in English and Portuguese, which is a great help in the work of translating material. Onaldo and his late wife moved away from the area and devoted

themselves to welfare work amongst the shanty towns of large Brazillian cities. They had two children of their own and adopted another nine. But he was always a lover of the Bible, and became profoundly convinced that the Trinity was wrong, and that it was spiritually abusive and Biblically wrong to threaten people with literal hell fire. He went to live with his sons on a land grant in a remote area of inner Brazil, where he farmed. He was then struck down by a rare form of muscular dystrophy whereby the muscles enlarge. He is barely able to walk unassisted and is in continual pain, relying on daily morphine to relieve it. But all this only intensified his search for truth. For the last months our brother has most days managed to get into the nearest village where there's an internet cafe in order to continue his studies of our literature. He was profoundly moved by our explanation that Satan doesn't exist as a cosmic being of evil, and that humanity must take total responsibility for their sins rather than blame any other being. The word "profound" is to be associated with Onaldo. He has worked out the practical, psychological and spiritual implications of all the basic doctrines which we preach, and he holds to them very intensely. His desire to be baptized was passionate.

He made the journey to be with us at the nearest hotel which had a swimming pool. His sons are a great example of devotion to a fine father, they very gently held him as he walked, and one of them slept in the hotel with us in order to take care of his father at night. He interpreted the talks for us, and you will hear his quiet voice on the MP3s mentioned earlier. His confession of faith was very deep and moving. Here is a man who really "gets it". It was a pleasure to baptize his devoted son Reuben, with Onaldo translating the words of the baptismal formula into Portuguese from the poolside:



Here was a man, now our brother, who really is in close, regular contact with his God and his Master:



We were a happy group of newly baptized who sat down to fellowship afterwards:



Thank God that all the effort made to spread the Truth of the Gospel does still bear fruit, to the very ends of the earth. Truly, "I knew a man in Christ":



Please pray for our new brothers and sister. We are now out of *Bible Basics* in Portuguese and would appreciate any donation towards reprinting it. Our new brethren have their own networks

of contacts who they are already working on to persuade of the real Christ, but as always, what's needed is Bibles, your prayers, and literature. For God's grace and desire to call people to His Son in Brazil is not lacking.

With love and joy from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks