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tlc Updates

Where in the world have we been??????



In July we headed to the INFORM (Instituto Metodista de formacao Missionaria) in the mountains outside Teresopolis, Brazil. A group of 60+ participants from The Mission Society and 40+ Brazilian nationals joined in cross-cultural training for 18 days. This was one of the largest groups to participant in the training. It was an intense time of learning about being cross cultural workers. **Why on earth would we go to Brazil for training when we have been called to Namibia Africa?? Well, to practice and learn in a "real" cross cultural environment.**

We joined a group of walkers for daily 5:45 brisk walks with Darrell. After breakfast, each day started with a period of praise and worship followed by a study of the book of Mark. The training sessions included presentations on various topics (see abbreviated list below) relevant to life as a cross-cultural worker.

Training Session Topics		
Building Trust, Making Disciples	Philosophy of Mission	Expectations for the 1 st term of Service
How to Conduct Inductive Bible Study	Culture Shock and Reverse Culture Shock (we will all go through it!)	Core Ministry Strategies
Spiritual Conflict	World Religions	Cross Cultural Challenges

Fields trips to the favelas (slums) in Teresopolis and Rio de Janeiro provided the opportunity to experience these communities from the objective perspective of an observer.



Additional highlights included coffee and cake at every meal and break (something we could get used to), hiking in the mountains, washing our clothes in the sink and hanging them out to "dry", enjoying chilly nights and mornings with no heat.

While in Brazil we reconnected with folks we met during our initial Mission Society training sessions. We also developed relationships with many of our Brazilian brothers and sisters, many of whom are headed to the mission field nationally and internationally. It was very moving to share worship and prayer in multiple languages during our time in Brazil. This is perhaps a glimpse of worship in heaven where members of all nations will rejoice with Christ.

Where in the world are we now???



After an all night flight from Brazil, we had a 3 hour layover in Atlanta to pick up our computers and board our next flight to Colorado Springs. WHY???. More training! Upon arrival in Colorado we had time for a quick shower and change of clothes we before heading for the introductory session of our 2 week language acquisition course.

During dinner we met many new friends that are preparing to serve the Lord in various places around the world. There are 47 adults (many have kids with them) making this PILAT one of the largest at MTI. We are getting exposure to new sounds that maybe a part of the Silozi language we will be learning in Namibia.

PILAT = Program In Language Acquisition Techniques provides us with techniques and a tool box with how to learn a language in another culture. In order to be an acceptable outsider we must be able to communicate and do it in the native tongue where we are living. We have learned sounds that are not used in the English language. We have twisted our tongues and lips into positions we have not used before. Our brains have been stretched and expanded but we have a plan and I know this information and training will be helpful. The instructors have been on the field and have amazing stories to share on how use (or misuse) of language can impact ones field ministry.

We will be staying in Colorado after the PILAT course to participate in the SPLICE course. SPLICE is a pre-departure program to help develop practical skills and attitudes that will successfully take us through the challenging and rewarding process of being interwoven with another culture.

Children of Zion Village Updates

Sixteen of our students were selected from all of the school athletes in the Katima Mulilo area to be part of regional sports teams. Nine girls were in Windhoek representing the Caprivi Region in a national girls soccer tournament. Seven of our boys were in Windhoek representing the Caprivi Region in a national boys basketball tournament. This was an exciting time for the children to compete as well as to take a trip to Namibia's capital city.

The big news is that Nico, one of our teen boys, played outstanding basketball and was selected to be part of the Namibian National youth Basketball team! He will spend time training with the others selected for this elite team, and then compete against teams from other African nations. **Congratulations to Nico!**

One child has been sent to a hospital in Windhoek for medical treatment. **Please continue to pray for the health of our children.** There was a case of TB recently but it appears to be restricted to one person.

We are a step closer to having several teens move into the Epiphany Transition House – the electricity has been hooked up. **Please pray that the Lord would bring the right couple to be house parents.**



Support Status

A BIG THANK YOU to those of you that have made a pledge or provided a one-time donation through The Mission Society to our ministry.

While we continue to make progress toward our financial goals we have not reach to level of funding that will allow us to depart for the field.

Our goal is to have sufficient commitments of funds (recurring pledges and one time donations) to meet our budgetary needs by September of 2010 so that we can complete our training and be prepared to go to the Children of Zion Village to begin our service to the Lord and the people of Caprivi Strip in Namibia.

Please pray that the Lord will provide long term financial partners for our ministry.

What's Next

- **August 1 – 18:** SPLICE course at MTI
- **August 28:** fund raising event
- **September:** visit parents
- **September 13:** attend Children of Zion Board Meeting
- **September 19:** speak at Sugarloaf UMC
- **September 26:** reception at Norcross FUMC
- **October :** depart for Children of Zion Village in Katima Mulilo, Namibia, Africa