

Brazil and the Lutheran Church – PPS

1 – Brazil and the Lutheran Church

2- A little bit about Brazil, the country: Brazil was a colony of Portugal from the landing of Pedro Álvares Cabral in 1500 until the Independence was achieved in 1822. Initially as the Empire of Brazil, the country has been a Presidential Republic since 1889.

3- The name: In Portuguese brazilwood is called *pau-brasil*, with the word *brasil* commonly given the etymology "red like an ember". It's a dye wood that produces a deep red dye, reminiscent of the color of glowing embers.

4- Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, after Russia, Canada, China and the United States, with a total area of 8,514,876.599 km² including 55,455 km² of water.

5 - Population: 195.4 million

Capital: Brasilia

Language: Portuguese

Major religion: Christianity

26 states (Provinces)

6- Brasília is the capital city of Brazil. It has a population of about 2,557,000 (2 and a half million). Brasília was built in 41 months, from 1956 to April 21, 1960, when it was officially inaugurated.

7 - São Paulo metropolitan area: 19.5 million inhabitants - São Paulo city: 11.839.570

8 – Rio de Janeiro: The most famous city: 11.5 million inhabitants (Metropolitan area)

9 - The Amazon is the second longest river in the world and by far the largest by water flow. The river enters the Atlantic Ocean in a broad estuary about 240 kilometers wide.

10 – Iguazu Falls: Iguazu is often compared with Victoria Falls. Iguazu is wider, but because it is split into about 275 discrete falls and large islands, Victoria is the largest curtain of water in the world, at over 1,600 m.

11 – Porto Alegre (the city from where we come): The name means: Happy Harbour - 1,500.000 inhabitants

12 – The people: Brazil's inhabitants are descendants of a mixture of people. Portuguese colonizers mixed with the native Indians and African slaves. Dutch and French colonization also took place in the northeast.

13 - In the 19th century, waves of German, Italian, Polish and Japanese immigrants added new elements to the mixture. Brazilians are perhaps one of the most racially mixed peoples in the world.

14 – Ethnic groups:

- 48.43% White
- 43.80% Brown (Multiracial)
- 6.84% Black
- 0.58% Asian
- 0.28 Amerindian

15 – The Native Indians: There are 315.000 native Indians, spread out in 206 different ethnic groups, living in 562 Indian reserves.

16 - In 2007, the National Indian Foundation reported the existence of 67 different uncontacted tribes. Brazil is believed to have the largest number of uncontacted peoples in the world.

17 – The Afro-Brazilians: Brazil is the country with the second-largest number of people of African descent in the world after Nigeria.

Nigeria has 148 million

Brazil has 96 million

18 – The Teotu-Brazilians: The German immigration in Brazil occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Currently, an estimated 5 million people have at least one German ancestor.

The Germans, behind the Italian, form the main ethnic group in southern Brazil.

19 – Sports: The most popular sport in Brazil is football (soccer) . The Brazilian national football team is ranked among the best in the world according to the FIFA World Rankings , and has won the World Cup tournament a record five times.

20 – Religion: Roman Catholicism - 73.8%

Protestantism - 15.4%

No religion - 7.4%

Spiritism - 1.3%

Others – 2.1%

(All data from Wikipedia)

21 – (IELB's logo) - The Lutheran Church in Brazil

22 - The Lutheran Church arrived in Brazil with the German immigrants in 1825. They brought the Bible, the Hymnal and the Small Catechism in their luggage. They settled in the South of the country.

23 - The German Immigrants were divided into Catholics and Protestants. The Protestants organized a Synod including Lutherans, Reformed and United Christians. Very few pastors were available. Usually someone who could read and write was elected as teacher and pastor.

24 -Some faithful Lutherans, not happy with this situation, contacted the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

25 - The first pastor was sent in 1900. He organized the first congregation. Other pastors followed.

26 -The Concordia Seminary was founded in 1903 (before the Synod was organized) with the goal to prepare local pastors for the congregations and for the mission. This was a very good missionary strategy! All our pastors are Brazilians.

27- The Synod was organized in 1904, as a District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It reached its administrative independence in 1980, and its financial independence in 2000.

28 – The Lutheran University was born of a parish school, and has now more than 100.000 students in several campuses around the country.

29 - STATISTICAL DATA: ON DECEMBER 31, 2010, IELB HAD 238.281 MEMBERS,
AN AFFILIATION OF 1.470 CONGREGATIONS AND 627 MISSION OR PREACHING
STATIONS. THERE ARE 894 PASTORS, 601 OF WHICH SERVE 519 PARISHES,
WHICH IN THEIR TURN CONSTITUTE THE 55 IELB DISTRICTS.
40 BRAZILIAN PASTORS ARE SERVING CHURCHES OUTSIDE OF BRAZIL.

30 – GROWTH:

The following charts show IELB's growth since her foundation in 1904, indicating how the number of members, pastors, locations (congregations and preaching/mission stations) and parishes has evolved. - Just after the 2nd World War, when the German language was prohibited in Brazil and the church needed to translate all her books and hymns, etc. to Portuguese, this was the time when the church grew more, because she reached out from the German walls to the Brazilian population.

31 – God's mission in Brazil:

32) A good personal experience in God's mission – 1st Part - 1973 – 1988: São Paulo, SP, Brazil

33) 1973 – São Paulo – 10 million inhabitants in 1973

34) Sent as missionary to the township called Rio Bonito, with many slums around.

Mission statement: To proclaim Christ to all.

Vision: To be a Confessional Lutheran Church that reaches the needs of people.

35) Obstacles/ Weaknesses: We didn't have any facilities... the beginning was in a small auto garage

36) Resolution of difficulties: To begin with the children + Bible Studies + services. LHM work.

37) Garage enlarged

38)The construction of the second building

- 39) Vacation Bible School (each child to bring another... from 20 to 100 in one week)
- 40) The mixed people of the new congregation
- 41) They organized a “band”
- 42) Our strength: “OUR COMPETENCE COMES FROM GOD” - 2 Cor 3:5
- 43) Values : The work and love of God through His Word and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper), that give us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in Christ.
- 44) The church, parsonage, hall – finished in 1986
- 45) Goal: To share the Gospel of Christ to promote evangelization and spiritual growth.
- 46) SOME MISSION LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH THIS CHURCH PLANTING EXPERIENCE:

- *Working with children, and through the children with their parents (to reach them);
- *Home Bible Studies in small groups;
- *Working with partners (LHM);
- *Visiting and involving people in the mission work;
- *Love what you do and love your people.

47) A good personal experience in God's mission - 2nd Part - 1988 – 1998: Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

- 48) Concordia – Christ for All
- 49) A traditional congregation (60 years old at that time)
- 50) To “rebuild” the congregation on the good foundation it had. - 500 members; service average, less than 100. The seminary had moved....
- 51) Visits, home Bible studies, children, youth!
- 52) How to reach the neighborhood (rich, Class A, huge apartments...): Concerts once a month... church full with visitors, but no one came as member. - The best way for mission in that situation: One by one! And: to welcome the visitors, doing follow up.

53) SOME MISSION LESSONS LEARNED IN THIS ESTABLISHED CHURCH:

- *Working with children, and through the children with their parents;
- *Home Bible Studies in small groups;
- *To welcome the visitors warmly;
- *People bring people - one-by-one;
- *Big events promote, but don't convert;
- *Love what you do and love your people.

54) A good personal experience in God's mission - 3rd Part - 1998 – 2006: Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

- 55) I was elected Pres. of the Synod (I had been vice-pres since I was 31 years old)
- 56) The head-quarter: behind my former church: The building of the former Seminary where I had studied for 11 years. My office: one of my former dormitories.
- 57) The National Board was formed by the President, two Vice- Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, all working full time.
- 58) 2004: Centennial. 15.000 people gathered for a service.
- 59) A choir + a band: 1.000 people.
- 60) The mission: The last state Amapá was reached.
- 61) A property was purchased in a permanent flooded area, and another on firm soil, where a church was built.
- 62) (The size of Brazil: From Kenya to South Africa).
- 63) A Strategic Plan was prepared under the general theme: CHRIST FOR ALL. .
- 64) The Synod Structure was reorganized, sharing the central power with the circuits.

65) SOME MISSION LESSONS LEARNED WHILE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CHURCH:

- *To plan the mission.
- *To plan big!
- *To work in partnership with other Lutheran Churches – (ILC)
- *To use more the media – Literature, TV, Radio (LHM), Internet.
- *To visit the missionaries in the field and to work with them.
- *To love what you do and love your people

(After this we went to Kenya from 2006 to 2010)

66) A good personal experience in God's mission - 4th Part - 2011-2015: St. Thomas - Cape Town

67) And now, we face a new reality: Cape Town, South Africa. Another country found its place in our heart.

68) St. Thomas is our congregation now and our family as well here in Cape Town.

69) We arrived there on 6th January 2011, for a five-year term,

70) St. Thomas Purpose Statement:

LOVED BY GOD. LOVING OTHERS!

To promote fellowship in a friendly environment, where :

GOD'S LOVE IN CHRIST IS PROCLAIMED (*Proclamation*)

LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS EXERCISED (*Care*)

LOVING OTHERS IS PRACTISED (*Outreach*)

71) The big challenge: How to do outreach and to grow? The Watchword for 2012 is: *Mark 5:19: "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."* May God help us in our efforts and prayers to bring our relatives and friends to Christ.

72) WHERE TO GO AFTER THE FIVE YEARS IN CAPE TOWN?

73) We have three children: Léo, Tatiana and Paulo

74) All the three of them are married. Léo and Carol live in Germany; Paulo and Flávia live in Brazil; Tatiana, Dickson and our grandson Henrique live now in Israel.

75) And we have now our little granddaughter Lea Sophia in Germany.

76) Where is our home? God knows! We are willing to serve as long as God gives us health to work.

77) "On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." Acts 14:27

Pastor Carlos Walter Winterle

Cape Town, 20 May 2012 (adapted)