



Making a Difference in Brazil

I met Andrei when I visited our ICCM school in Monte Santo, Bahia, Brazil, in September. I asked if I could get a picture with him because I knew his sponsors. After we had our picture taken together and



he had returned to class, Sirlene, the school's assistant director, told me more about him.

Andrei's behavior at school had been poor. The staff noticed he was eating as much as possible at meal and snack times. His teacher thought his behav-

ior would improve if he could come to school early and have breakfast before class. She suspected he was coming to school very hungry – possibly without breakfast and or no dinner the night before.

Gilson, the school's director, arranged for Andrei to be among the students who arrive at school early to eat breakfast, due to nutritional concerns. Andrei's behavior improved markedly. When I saw Andrei during another visit, he proudly showed me the shoes that had been purchased, with a gift sent by his sponsor, to replace the tattered ones he'd been wearing.

Valquiria was among a group of adolescent girls peppering me with questions just before classes began one morning. Valquiria suffers the effects of Albinism – the absence of the pigment melanin in her skin. This condition is especially challenging in the dry, hot climate, 10 degrees south of the Equator, where the sun shines in punishing brilliance nearly every day.

Valquiria needs a prescription lotion to protect her skin. Several times this has been supplied through gifts from her sponsor. In this recent photo she is pictured with other students receiving gifts from sponsors and the school's assistant director. Because of sponsorship, Valquiria studies at our ICCM school, which is readily recognized as the best in the region. The students are taught to value, respect and love each other. Your prayers for her are much appreciated, especially because her father recently passed away after a three-year battle with cancer.

It was a delight to learn both the director and assistant director of our school were themselves sponsored through ICCM. Every sponsorship of a student at our Monte Santo school is an answer to prayer.



Watch the video "Monte Santo School in Brazil" online at <https://vimeo.com/75028389>. Prayerfully consider sponsoring a child from Brazil. (At childcareministries.org you can sort by "Brazil." A child number beginning with BR202 indicates a Monte Santo student.)

I spent two days at Todo Mundo Feliz (Everyone's Happy) in late August.

This top-notch child development center was started by the Mirandópolis Free Methodist Church in São Paulo, Brazil. It was deliberately established right on the edge of a slum area where drug traffickers are the law.

Todo Mundo Feliz (TMF) was begun in 2002. It later gained funding through the local municipality of Santo André and now also has a partnership with ICCM as a Connected Community with Cape Coral Community Church (FL).

At the time of my visit, 151 children were enrolled, not a few of whose parents are involved with drugs. Younger children spend the whole day at TMF. Older children spend half a day, and the other half attending public school.

For all the children who are enrolled at TMF, the probability of sexual abuse or forced labor in drug trafficking is dramatically reduced.

While visiting the classrooms, I talked with the children and answered their questions. One afternoon I put puzzles together with 3-year-olds. A teacher of one little boy



who talked with me remarked, "He hardly ever talks to anyone!"

The meals are wonderfully nutritious. I ate my lunch right along with the children. (I love the way rice and beans are seasoned in Brazil.) The good health and mental development the children enjoy can, in many cases, be directly attributed to the healthy meals and loving care they receive at Todo Mundo Feliz.

For several years I have been looking for an opportunity to visit Cantinho da Vovó Naná (Grandma Nana's Corner – named after the woman who donated the original house and land), in Ibitité, Minas Gerais, Brazil. My opportunity came in August. This child development center is also located in an area plagued by drug trafficking.

Grandma Nana's Corner is a place of refuge. The children are offered excellent nutrition, age-appropriate education by a caring staff, and the knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is another ministry where a child's participation greatly reduces his or her risk of sexual abuse and forced labor in drug trafficking. Sponsorship for these at-risk children changes their world.



Cibelly cried and cried. But she began to smile after I showed her her own crying picture. Then she laughed and laughed!

