

John and Maria Dyer

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Prayer Letter

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Dear friends,

Moving on

The past three months have seen some significant changes to our work in Brazil. Jointly, BMS and the Brazilian Baptist Convention invited John to co-ordinate a new nationwide lay training project. This will involve considerable travel and time away from home and the seminary in Natal.

It's a great opportunity to build on 20 years experience of lay training in Brazil. A big decision was taken to bring forward John's departure from the seminary, and so the search for his successor as director is now underway. Please pray for the seminary council that wisdom will be given as they interview the candidates and come to a decision. This is a historic moment for the seminary as it prepares to receive its first Brazilian director.

Largest ever intake

This year we had a new intake of 26 students, the largest so far. Praise the Lord for that. Change, as always, brings a measure of uncertainty, but also excitement. Overall, though, there is a great desire for the seminary to move forward with the vision that brought it into existence: that is, to be a seminary for all God's people – pastors, missionaries (as they are still called in Brazil), as well as church leaders in general. Maria continues with her administrative duties in the seminary, at least for the time being.

A few days ago, part of the ceiling of one of our classrooms collapsed. Thankfully no-one was hurt. The ceiling has now been completely removed exposing the tiles and beams. This will, in fact, make the room cooler than before, so a blessing in disguise, perhaps!



Students at Natal seminary



The long distance traveller

In the last couple of months, John has traveled over 5,000 miles by bus, plane and train, visiting several states in the north and northeast of Brazil. There is keen interest in the lay leadership project, which still has to assume its final shape and form. The emphasis is on developing capabilities as well as character formation and increasing knowledge. In the next few months, he will be giving presentations at two important meetings of national and state leaders, as well as to directors and teachers of Brazilian Baptist seminaries.



Carajas train service from Maranhão state to Pará in northern Brazil



São Luís, capital of Maranhão state

New pastor for our local church

Our local church in Natal now has a new pastor. John was chair of the group chosen to seek out and interview candidates. We were without a pastor for six months, though the church seemed to develop and mature as a result. Another important task fulfilled and one more way in which we are able to serve the Brazilian church. Pray for Pastor Sergio and his wife Isabel, as they lead the church from now on.

A week in the Atlas Mountains

Joao Marcos has been to Morocco on a university field trip. He was in the Atlas Mountains and during his week's stay had hot



Pastor Sergio, Pirangi Baptist Church, Natal

sunshine, rain, hail and snow! Travel in the mountains is by mule, so his previous horse riding experience came in useful. He took some stunning photographs and generally had an enjoyable and profitable time. Twenty students from the University of Manchester did this field trip. The other options were Iceland and the west of Ireland, both very interesting places, but Morocco eventually won out. JM's group also spent a day in Marrakesh, which he described as crazy, but fun. He spent the Easter holidays with family in England. Of course, we're very much looking forward to seeing him again in the summer.

As always, this comes with our love and deep gratitude for your prayers and support, both spiritual and material. Easter has come and gone, but the time of rejoicing, proclamation and hope continues, because Jesus rose from the dead and lives for evermore!

*Yours because of him,
John, Maria and Joao Marcos*

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