

# Brazil News

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Editorial

## **The Orchard**

Several years ago we had a visitor from California who was a specialist in citriculture. I invited him to take a look at my little orchard and give me a few pointers. In 30 minutes, not only did he teach me how to take care of my fruit trees, but more important, he helped me understand better the words of Jesus in the 15th chapter of Saint John, where He talks about the vine and the branches.

Let's notice verse 2: "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

Before the lesson began I thought I knew at least a little bit about pruning fruit trees. The idea, I thought, was to walk around the tree a time or two with a critical eye, looking for dry or unsightly branches. These I figured had to be removed.

As I watched the man work, it soon became evident I really knew very little. Instead of walking around the tree and clipping off occasional branches, as I would have done, he pulled the branches apart and looked in.

Then as he worked, he explained to me that for a tree to be healthy, it needs sunlight (that I knew) and ventilation (which I didn't know). He proceeded to remove some perfectly good branches out of the middle of the tree. When he finished, it was possible to look right through.

But that wasn't all. Now he began to cut off some of the nicest looking branches on the outside. "Suckers" he called them. They grow fast but bear little fruit. Naturally, any dead branches had to go.

The explanations that the man from California had for pruning trees made sense. I tried to follow his instructions and soon we had plenty of fruit for ourselves and others.

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away."

## Literature

### **A Report on the Literature Work**

A very bright spot in the history of the American Colony in Brazil has been the mission, tract and literature work; three different programs working together harmoniously with a single goal in mind, the salvation of souls.

A makeshift literature program was informally implanted soon after the Colony was established. The booklet *Principles of Faith* was translated and a small run printed in Goiânia. Abbreviated Sunday School lessons were made for both children and adults and printed on a spirits duplicator (the kind that prints in a fuzzy blue).

Tracts were also translated and printed in Goiânia. This was all done on a voluntary basis. Now as we review the work that was done during that time, it looks very crude. But it was a beginning and did a definite work. It was a case of doing our best under circumstances and letting God do the rest, which He did.

In September of 84 a new element was introduced into our literature program, something which continues until today. Using an old manual typewriter, a four page Messenger was made, called “Seleções do Mensageiro da Verdade,” “Selections from the Messenger of Truth.” (Ironically, the word “Mensageiro” was misspelled, with a ‘j’ in place of the ‘g’ – a mistake that was corrected several issues later.) This first trial issue, with no date nor number, was printed on a spirits duplicator with an initial run of approximately 30 copies. These were distributed to the staff, the Brazilians, and other interested ones.

Good interest was shown in a Portuguese Messenger and the green light was given to proceed with the project.

Just as a matter of interest, the articles in this first trial issue were: *The Weak and the Strong*, by Gladwin Koehn, from Macon, Mississippi; *Ye Must Be Born Again*, by Robert G. Schmidt, from Chickasha, Oklahoma; two letters, one by Tina Froese, from Spanish Lookout, Belize; and the other by Jim Douglas, from Enderby, BC.

Issue number 1 came out on September 30 of 84. It contained three articles from the US, one from Nigeria (by Patrick L.O. Enike), and one from Canada, plus a short story written by Jennie F. Willing.

Issue number 2 reflected some basic changes. An Olivetti electronic typewriter was purchased, giving the paper a much crisper look. Instead of being printed on the spirits duplicator, a small Xerox copier was rented, making a very readable copy. There were six articles from the US, one from Mexico, three from Canada, and one without an address. There was a youth section, which has been maintained all the way through.

Issue number 3 (with the misspelled title corrected) was up to 12 pages and included what has become a hallmark of the *Mensageiro*, a children’s section called *O Mensageirinho* – “The Little Messenger.” Even though it is the last section, it is read first (just like the obituaries and news items are read first in its English counterpart).

You will notice that right from the beginning an effort was made to publish articles

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## Doctrinal books

Principles of Faith  
Questions & Answers  
The Minister's Manual

## General reading

The Christian Home  
Keeping the Faith  
Hear Their Cry  
Whether it be of God

## Youth

Conversion, Consecration, and  
Christlike Service

## Children

Histórias do Mensageirinho  
(A collection of stories taken  
out of the children's section  
of the Mensageiro.  
Cento e Três Corinhos  
(A hundred and three  
children's choruses.)

## Mensageiro books

Extra Mensageiros are made and stored away until the end of the year, when an index is made and the books are bound. Some who save their Mensageiros bring them to us. We insert the index and bind them for a small fee. At present we have books from nine different years for sale.

## Translated and soon to be published

Worth Dying For  
The Shining Sword  
A Mini-Martyrs Mirror  
Caring and Sharing  
(Condensed and combined)  
Several more Mensageirinho  
books  
Hurlbut's Story of the Bible  
The Drummer's Wife  
The Mirror of Truth (being trans-  
lated by Myron Kramer)

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price of anything being sent airmail (and Sunday School books must be sent airmail to get here on time) – only one copy is sent of the children’s quarterlies and we then make them on our copier.

In the case of the Youth & Adult books, Gospel Publishers sends us a copy on diskette, which is then set up here and printed at Gráfica Girassol, where the tracts and the Mensageiro are presently being printed. Also the Yearbook, the Financial & Activities Reports, and other similar publications are printed on our copier and distributed here.

We are about to enter into a new phase of our work, which is the bookstore. This is a real challenge, because beside being a local outlet for our material, it will involve an effort to get some of our books and material into other evangelical bookstores throughout Brazil. It will take a lot of footwork, but we believe there is real potential in this market, especially for books like *Worth Dying For*, *The Drummer’s Wife*, *The Mini-Martyrs Mirror*, children’s books, and above all, *Hurlbut’s Story of the Bible*. I think we may find an outlet for our Sunday School material and maybe even for the *Mensageiro*.

The literature center has three workers and operates under two local and one North American board. At one end of the building Stephen Kramer is the Gospel Tract office superintendent. His local board is: Harold Holdeman, Mark Loewen and Clinton Unruh, with Roy Toews being the N American field secretary. Several girls come in once a week to help package tracts.

On the other end of the building, Faith and I take care of the translation and publication work. I do the translation and desktop publishing. Faith proofreads everything I translate, publishes whatever is done on the copier and is responsible for sales.

The local publication board is made up of: Carman Loewen, Daniel Martin Jr, Daniel Holdeman, Clifford Warkentin and Jesse Loewen.

The tract work operates with Conference funds. The literature program, on the other hand, is maintained by the local congregations. Actually, this would refer to wages. So far as the publication end of the work, it carries itself. Equipment has been purchased with local funds, as well as several grants from N America.

From the onset, Gospel Publishers in Moundridge has played an extremely important role in the growth of the work here. Most of our hardware and software has been purchased through the office there. Permission to translate and publish books from other publishers has all been handled in the same manner, as well as many other items. Without this liaison, the work in South America wouldn’t be where it is today.

Because of this, it was a special privilege to have Dale Koehn from Gospel Publishers, and his wife Joyce, spend a week with us recently. Notice I didn’t say anything about a vacation. We kept him busy all the time. His first big job was to help Gospel Tract make the transition from a Microsoft Works database, an amateur program never intended for a mailing list with over 10 thousand records and some 40 thousand transactions, to Microsoft FoxPro for Windows. Having previously set up this application for the Ukraine office, it was streamlined here for our local needs.

On the literature program, it was an exchange of ideas, especially in relation to the bookstore we hope to have going soon. Most important for Faith and me, was the opportunity to “talk shop,” to get a wider vision of the operation of the overall church literature program.

On the previous page you can see the front page of one of our Mensageiros, showing an editorial by Gladwin Koehn. ▲

## Linguistics

### **English Spoken Abroad**

When people who have lived in a foreign country sit around remembering the good old days, sooner or later the conversation turns to goofs committed when learning the language. Folks who have lived in Mexico do it. We who live in Brazil do it. But since it's stupid things said in Spanish or Portuguese, it doesn't do any good to print them here since most of you wouldn't understand.

But now I ran across some you will understand. The men who went on the trip to Mozambique brought back inflight Air Malawi magazines. Under the title “English As Proper Used!” a frequent international traveler from Johannesburg lists some of the jewels found in foreign countries.

While these goofs obviously are humorous, they weren't meant to be. Rather, this is the way someone, very likely with the aid of a dictionary, translated from his own language some message he wanted English speaking people to read.

You readers who have learned Spanish, or any other foreign language, will understand the logic behind what is written better than those who haven't been exposed to another language. Here goes:

**In a Bucharest hotel lobby; The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.**

**In a Belgrade hotel elevator; To move the cabin push bottom for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.**

**From a car rental firm in Tokyo; When passenger on foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage, then tootle him with vigor.**

**And an echo, from the Cold War in the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery; You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursdays.**

“While on the subject, have you heard the one about South Africa’s famous ‘Van der Merwe’, who was halfway between floors on a department store’s escalator when the power failed. ‘Van’ later told friends he and his wife were stuck for three hours on the escalator till the power came back!”

## Colonization

### **Pirenópolis**

We will remember that the majority of the mission work done in Brazil has been through colonization. While this system does bring on some cultural problems that aren’t faced on a traditional mission field, the benefits still outweigh the problems.

Our new missionary couple in Pirenópolis (located between Goiânia and Brasília), Staven & Adeline Schmidt are doing an experiment – I don’t think it’s improper to call it that – that is stirring a lot of interest among those interested in missions.

The Pirenópolis mission has had a steady and solid development. The brethren take an active part in their local church. It’s at the “John the Baptist” stage, that is, where the missionary can decrease so they can increase. But they do need some tutoring yet. It wouldn’t at this point be proper to pull the missionaries out of Pirenópolis.

The solution: Staven has taken his tractor and some equipment to Pirenópolis and is doing custom work for the local farmers, many of whom have only small plots and don’t have their own machinery.

I understand that while he was working at one place, the man’s father died. This gave him a first hand opportunity to comfort the family. Doubtlessly this was more than mere coincidence.

Why do I tell this under a Colonization heading, and not Mission?

Apparently there is land that can be bought in the area for a reasonable price. It’s true that the land isn’t flat like on the Rio Verde or Mato Grosso colonies. Very likely anyone buying there would become more involved in cattle or some kind of small acreage farming. The comments that I have been hearing around here is that it looks quite workable.

I have never been to Pirenópolis, but everyone says it is beautiful. If a colony should be established there, it would get us into an entirely new area where I believe there is opportunity, both naturally and spiritually.

Maybe this is dreaming, but if it would work in Pirenópolis, why couldn’t it work other places too?

Brazil is a land of opportunity. Spiritual opportunity.



Whenever I hear of one of these happenings, I remember the story of the cow. What cow? I'll soon tell you. But first of all I want to tell you a story about my friend who works for a business that isn't doing too well. It used to be the only thing he could talk about was a raise. He would tell how he planned to present an either/or ultimatum to his boss. Either he would get the raise he wanted or he would walk out on him. The only thing his boss would have to do is say yes or no to his proposal.

I don't know if he actually presented the ultimatum to his boss, but I do know that things got worse and worse as the books got redder and redder. Workers were laid off.

Then one day, looking like a scared rabbit, my friend told me,

"They're behind . . ."

"Behind on what?" I interrupted.

"Behind on my pay. It's the first time this has ever happened."

Two weeks went by without a check. Then another two weeks. Finally it was a month and a half without seeing a red cent in pay. My friend was beside himself. He threatened to go to law to get his pay. Even that threat didn't do any good.

Then one day I met my friend. He was on cloud nine.

"Finally . . ."

"Finally what?"

"Finally I got my check. Every bit of it. There wasn't a single cent missing."

He was beside himself. I decided to have a little fun with him.

"How about your raise?"

"Raise? What raise?" He didn't seem to catch on. "What's important to me is to be paid on time."

Talking about a happy friend!

That made me remember the story of the cow. It's an ancient story, but maybe someone hasn't heard it yet.

Way out in India a man looked up the local guru. He too was beside himself.

"Master, I can't take it any longer! I have an enormous family and we are down and out. We live in a one-room shack and we have to sleep in a pile. You can't believe how filthy everything is. When it rains the roof leaks so bad no one can sleep. And in the summer, when it gets hot, it's like an oven inside.

The guru meditated for a few moments and then asked a question:

"You consider yourself to be about as unhappy as a human being can get, don't you?"

"Yes, master."

"Then this is what you will do. You have a cow, don't you?"

"Yes, master."

"Keep it in the house . . ."

"What did you say, master? In the house?!"

"That's right. From today on your cow will live in with you."

Since you don't argue with a guru, the unhappy man followed orders. Some days later he returned to see his guru.

realizes that there are accidents and that cattle occasionally die. Knowing that our people are honest, he doesn't ask that they be replaced.

Why don't our people raise more cattle and farm less? The reason is quite simple. Our land is excellent farm ground and one acre of crops show a better profit than one acre of pasture. However, I wouldn't be surprised if in the future there might not be a slow migration to ranching, especially thinking in terms of putting up large amounts of silage to be able to make it through the dry season, which is the limiting factor in any cattle operation.

Why not go to a feedlot? I really see no reason why it couldn't work. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if that might not happen if a new colony should begin in Pirenópolis. Being near to the Goiânia and Brasília markets, it should be quite practical.

What breeds of cattle are raised here? That is a story in itself. But for a quick little answer, most beef cattle raised here are what we call nelore. Don't ask me what it means. I think it is an Indian name, as many of our brahma strains were originally imported from India.

The nelore is almost worthless as a milk cow, but a very good mother. A dangerous mother, I might add. Very protective of their offspring, they are anything but non-resistant.

Beautiful animals, a nelore is white and doesn't have an especially large hump.

Possibly one of the most interesting breeds we have ever had here is the indo-brasil, the "indo" referring to India and the "brasil," obviously, to Brazil. Enormous docile creatures, they had ears over two feet long. They have given way to other breeds.

Then there is the gir (no translation), beautiful multipurpose cows, good for both beef and milk. This breed has been crossed with holsteins (known as holandeses) and known as gir-holandas. Without any special treatment, they will give several gallons of milk a day, considered good here.

## **This & That**

Stragglers back from the US, out of breath, out of money, and(?) out of sorts, are:

Eldon Penners, Daniel Kramers, Jon Coblenz and children, Jake Loewens, John Unruhs, Stanley Schultzes, and Sylvia Becker.

Just a hint to you Americans who don't seem to have money to travel all over the US.

Move to Brazil.

Dave, Esther, and Regina Miller, together with their niece, Sherilyn Yoder, took a trip to the states of Espírito Santo and São Paulo.

Milferd, son of Mark & Glenda Loewen, is spending some time in voluntary service in a Kansas flood area.

John & Elsie Hershberger and daughter Lois from Georgia, came to pay Daniel & Anna Kramer a visit. John and Daniel were childhood friends. Their daughter is a missionary in Paraguay. Monica, a Paraguayan nurse, who belongs to their church,



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Arlen Friesen, the missionary from Acaraú, Ceará, in the Northeast, was hospitalized with breakbone fever.

On August 2 the youth from both the Rio Verdinho and Monte Alegre Congregations had a workday for Frances Schultz. They had supper at the Rio Verdinho social hall. Will & Ann Miller are spending a month in the US.

Different ones are taking a forced vacation because of a flu that is floating around.

On August 3 the Dean Penner's missionary term expired in Mirassol, São Paulo. They have returned to the US. Their replacements, the William Coblenz family, should be coming within a month.

There was a painting bee at Arlo Hibners to make the walls of their new house more attractive. The ladies sewed their curtains at general sewing. I suspect they will soon move in.

Different ones helped paint the house that John & Alma Penner used to live in. Milton & Cindy Loewen have now moved in. We have been looking forward for some time to having them as neighbors especially because they have several cows and we won't have to drive so far for milk.

Caleb & Joan Holdeman and family returned after spending a year in the US.

Arlo & Priscilla Hibner, Dean Mininger and Duane Holdeman are making a tour of the missions in the Northeast. Cristiane & Raquel Garcia are staying with Arlo and Priscilla's children.

Paula Schultz, who taught on the Mirassol mission last year, is spending time in Goiânia teaching the missionary children until Kayann Dirks gets her missionary visa and can take over.

Both farmers and cattlemen are keeping a close eye on the weather, hoping for a rain.

It's too dry to work in the fields and the pastures are really shot after the frost we had last month. If the rains should hold off another month, which they probably won't, things could really get tight for cattlemen.