



# BushNet

News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

GIVING PRACTICAL HELP - MEETING SPIRITUAL NEED

Issue 2 of 2008



*Imagine a young girl. She is aged between 9 and 12... What should her day be like? School, and afterwards a bit of homework and then play? Good food and a warm bed provided for her?*

*Some children are not so lucky. For some a safe and secure life is not guaranteed. They might have to earn their own keep. With few skills and fewer employment opportunities, what are the options?*

*El in Brazil has teamed up with the local church to offer alternative opportunities...*

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## Teaching sewing skills in Brazil...

In August 2007 Emmanuel Brazil and Águas Formosas Church started a Sewing Course for teenagers. The church wanted to respond to the needs of teenagers who would be hanging around the streets after school. Some of them were already involved in prostitution and have suffered sexual abuse. A regular activity, such as sewing classes, would take the teenagers away from the streets and give them the opportunity to learn some skills that would help them have a future profession. (Brazilian law allows some apprentice courses for teenagers). Ten teenagers started to participate in the sewing classes and in regular Bible devotions. During the eight month course they have learned how to sew simple clothes and how to make rag dolls, key rings and table cloths. The products are sold at the local market and the profit is used to purchase more materials for the course and to help the teenagers in their more urgent needs.

It is moving to see both the enthusiasm the students demonstrate with the course and their pride in showing what they made. Teenagers' self-esteem and excitement with the possibility of a better future are some of the results that can be seen even before the course is completed.



The church is planning another Sewing Course so that other teenagers can have the same opportunity.



## A success story....

Luana is a 13 year old teenager. She is the 11th child of a large family of 15 children. Her family is very poor and her parents don't know how to read and write. The other sisters usually clean people's houses to supplement the family's income.

Luana's mother enrolled her in the Águas Formosas Day Care Center Program (PROPAC) where Luana started to have sewing classes. She is learning how to make various products using a sewing machine. Some time ago she had the chance to work as a housemaid but her mother said she wanted a better future for her, so Luana kept attending the Sewing Project.

She now sews and mends clothes for her family and also gets a little money doing some sewing work for neighbours. This income helps her to buy school materials and some food. Luana dreams about the day when she will have her own sewing machine, so she can work from home. At the moment she needs to use the project sewing machine. Luana has proved to be so skillful that she will be appointed a teenager facilitator in the Sewing Course within the next six months.



Fred Silva is the In-Country Representative for Emmanuel International in Brazil. He was invited to speak at our 2008 Annual Conference. He also travelled around England to visit various churches, telling them about EI's work in Brazil. Fred shared first-hand knowledge about the projects. It was inspiring to hear him talk about the difference that EI Brazil is making in the lives of people there.

The sewing project is only one of those projects, but it clearly makes the difference between a life of destitution, and perhaps prostitution, and one where a young girl can learn a skill that she can use to earn additional income for the family. A skill that may allow her to be self-employed in a community where jobs are scarce.

Fred also talked about the water treatment project in the Red Corridor or 'Corredor Vermelho'. This is a poor community that is based next to a large water treatment plant, but ironically the families did not have clean running water at their own homes! EI Brazil worked together with the local church, Mocambinho, to provide water to the family's homes. He shared stories that told of the difference this fresh water has made: One family consists of a mother who has twin sons, born blind. Though the sons are grown, they are still living with their mother. Because they are blind, they could not help her to collect water. For many years she could only bring enough water for cooking, dishes and washing. A shower was a luxury that could be ill afforded. But with the new water supply to their home, her sons could have a shower. Even though the shower is taken outside under the water tank in cold water, this is a joy that they had not been able to experience for almost sixteen years!

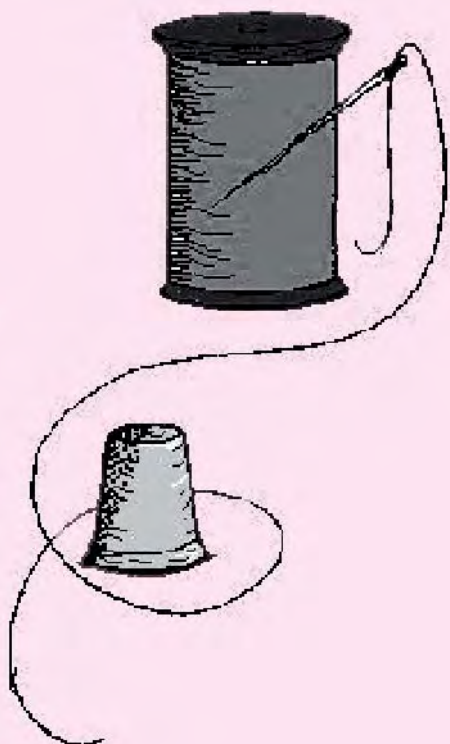
There are more projects in Brazil, some focussing on uplifting the communities and some focussing on spiritual development.

Please pray for Fred and his team (his wife Carla, Tarcisio and Jurema Porto and João and Nereida Oliveira) as they make such a difference. Please thank God for their enthusiasm and their passion.



## Fred Silva, EI Brazil Representative

### The sewing project touched a heart...



*Prayer... How often do we have an audible answer? I was attending the 10:30 service at Hinder Road URC and Methodist Church recently (our Minister David Varcoe is involved with EI) and Fred was our visiting speaker. Fred told us about the group of young girls sewing to save their lives!*

*I had been praying for an opportunity to do something practical for a group who needed help and here was my answer. I offered a donation and arranged to donate a small monthly amount by direct debit. I did not expect to hear anything again but I have since received a wonderful set of photographs of the children, plus a shoulder bag with a cheerfully coloured dolls face. This is ideal as a peg bag and I do enjoy hanging out my washing much more now!! Cast your bread...*

by Sheilah Lowe

# EIUK events

## Annual Garden Party Saturday 28 June 2008

Once a year, during the summer, the Emmanuel International family gets together at an informal garden party. It is the opportunity to meet those who are involved with EI, whether for many years or just newly joined. As always, the garden party will take place at 3 Pine Walk, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8NJ. Please bring your own picnic lunch. There is no need to book a place.

## International Management Conference 28th September to 4th October 2008



The management of Emmanuel International worldwide will meet at our head office in Stouffville, Canada later this year. The last meeting was held in 2003. It is hoped that all the affiliate countries and the in-country representatives will be present.

The purpose of this year's conference is to collectively come before the Lord in prayer; to assess corporate and country progress since the last IMC; to consider the need for re-structuring; and to set organisational structure and overall direction for next 3-5 years. It is an opportunity to meet with each other and renew old or build new relationships.

Sue Fallon will represent the EIUK office as General Manager for the first time. Linda Fitzmaurice will also attend to meet the rest of the international EI family. Please pray for safe travels as people will be travelling from all over the world to attend. Please pray for wisdom and obedience to God's will as we discuss the future of EI. Please pray for sufficient funds that everyone will be able to attend.

## EIUK Annual Conference 6-8 February 2009

The EIUK conference will be held at Sunbury Court, Sunbury-on-Thames near London. This very popular residential get-together offers the opportunity not only to hear the latest about the work that Emmanuel International does, but also to worship together. Please book your spaces early to avoid disappointment!

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