

AUGUST 2025

Terena Bible School in Brazil

We continue our report on our (Sue Fallon and Linda Fitzmaurice) trip to Brazil in May 2025. Read our report on the Quilombola in the May 2025 and on Sementes do Vale and the Sertão Verde project in the June 2025 issues. This is the last installment, all about our visit to the Terena Bible School. Sue Fallon writes.



We had a reasonably early start as we flew to Campo Grande to visit the Terena Bible school. We first flew to Sao Paulo where we met up with Vitor, he is a volunteer for MEB and hopefully a future representative in Vitoria. He had wanted to go on a trip with Fred to visit one of the projects for some time and this seemed to be a good opportunity. We flew on to Campo Grande, picked up a rental car

and drove the few hours out to the bible school. We stayed in the home of Pastor Jader and his wife Arely on the property of the bible school. He was the director of the bible school before he handed it over to his son Kali and is currently the chairman of the 41 Uniedas churches. It was such a privilege to be welcomed into their home and to spend time around their table, for me that was a highlight.

Saturday evening is the normal time for the students to meet together for service, which like our services includes prayer, worship and a sermon. Fred was the speaker. The worship was really good and the prayer time amazing, with everyone praying at once out loud and in their own language. A small taste of heaven (Rev 5:9)! There are currently 4 ethnic groups at the bible school: Terena, Xavante, Kadiwéu and Suyá. Because we were visiting, they each took turns to either sing or dance in their traditional worship style.

On Sunday we visited the church in Olho D'Água - a church we helped build in 2007. It was my third visit to the church and it was special to be able to worship with the congregation again. As we were greeting people, one of the ladies (that I recognised from previous visits) gave me a huge hug and started crying. When we were first there as a short term team in 2007, helping with building the church, we had a really smart, very cheeky young boy (about 7) who came around all the time. He was called Emmerson

and I would play with him every day. On my next visit to Brazil, we went to visit him and his family in their home. This time she could only show me pictures as she shared with me that he had been diagnosed with leukaemia and after just 6 months had passed away. My turn to cry with her and give her a hug.

In the evening, we went to one of the Uniedas churches in town that were celebrating their 36th anniversary. We had a good time of worship and celebrated with lovely cake after the service.

We had the opportunity to spend a good amount of time with the students, listening to them tell their stories. Most are single but there are a few families there too. The Terena and Xavante are well represented but the Kadiwéu are quite a few less and there is only one Suyá and she is more a staff member than student. There are 19 students in all with another 2 joining later in the year. One of the struggles shared by many was learning Portuguese - it is not anyone of the students' first language



but it is the language all the classes are taught in as there needs to be a common one.

The distance the students travel to attend the school was another: a number of them come from 1500km away, making it very difficult for them to go home during the long holidays as it's too expensive for them and means they often don't see their families for years. For those groups less represented that's even harder. They shared lots about how thankful they were to be there and to learn more about God and the bible, most of them with the intention of going back to their home villages to share what they have learnt. It's not easy for outsiders to go to their villages so it's really important they have the opportunity to learn so they can be the ones to share the Good News. They felt well cared for and it seemed to have a nice family atmosphere.

We had devotions with the students before breakfast and I was asked to tell my story of how I got involved in missions. I won't go into all the details here except to say there were a couple of things (eg. I was born in Liverpool but am an Everton supporter) that were very relatable to them and the knew something about. Being from Liverpool and supporting Everton plays a big part in my story and football being a universal language, was an instant connection. Liverpool became a word they used a few times and it was fun to joke with them afterwards, adding to the banter for the rest of the trip.

After breakfast we went to visit another of the Uniedas churches in a village a good 1½ hours away, called Limao Verde. We first met with one of the previous students and saw how he was doing before finding the Pastor of the church who had also been one of the students

about 40 years ago. It was great again to be welcomed and to be able to sit and hear his story and how things are going in the church and village.



It was a longer visit than planned because they had a wild parrot that visited the home regularly. It likes one of the children, and we needed plenty of time to see it up close and take pictures.

In the evening we went into town to a fish restaurant because they really wanted us to taste how good the fish is. We tried piranha soup! It tastes like fish curry soup.

This concludes the reports on our trip to Brazil. It was an amazing experience: to get to know our missionaries and the projects in Brazil, to spend time with them and experience life with them! We would appreciate it very much if you would keep everyone we have been telling you about in the last months in your prayers, as we are doing!

Iringa water projects



Mtitu school hilltop site

EI has been active in Tanzania since 1994 up till now. Throughout that time the Iringa office has supported local churches in the rural southern highlands around Iringa. One of the focus activities has been water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) projects. EI Tanzania has implemented more than 12 school WaSH projects since 2010 and 4 larger village water supply projects too. A conservative estimate of the number of households blessed by these activities includes 6000 students and 4000 households with access to clean water.

Right now, through their links with the local Anglican church, Ajery in the Iringa office has a proposal to implement a WaSH project at Mtitu Secondary School, using rainwater harvesting as the water source. The school is located on a hilltop and has been waiting for a water supply for more than 10 years! Obtaining water is time consuming for students and staff, and can be a security problem for girls in particular. The school continues to carry water up the hill from a sand well in the valley 2km from the school.

As you can imagine, this lack of water causes many problems for the staff and students of the school. Ajery's proposal, with 10 23,000 litre water tanks, would provide enough rainwater collection storage to supply the 585 students throughout the year, every year. Our



Girls' hostel building



23,000 litre tank installed at a previous project

fundraising for this project has not been successful as yet.

The cost of a tank is £2 500. Can we challenge you, your church or youth group to consider raising the funds for one tank? If not a whole tank, would you be willing to contribute towards the cost of this project? It will make a huge difference to the lives of the students.

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