

## PIONEER MISSIONS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Dear Brazil Volunteer:

This manual was compiled and written by Missionary Wade Akins and Stateside Administrator/Volunteer Gary A. Taylor as a tool to educate volunteers prior to their journey to Brazil. We are thankful for your commitment to become involved in a work that is touching an entire nation. God is using the **Pioneer Missions Program** to change the lives of people, both Brazilians and Americans. Over 400 churches have been constructed throughout the nation of Brazil through Pioneer Evangelism. This was achieved through the Grace of God and people like you performing the work He has set out before you to do.

You are a vital part of His plan, without you it would be difficult for all of this to happen. I believe that each and every volunteer who takes part in this work will be blessed throughout his or her life due to this experience.

**The information enclosed is critical to each and every volunteer.** This will help you become informed and help you to be efficient in your work while on the mission field. I trust that you will spend time to read, review, and study this information until you become very familiar with the program. I trust you and your team will begin the process of preparing to become spiritually fit so that you can accomplish the work God is sending you to complete.

Each volunteer should have a copy of this material and bring it to Brazil to be used while on the mission field. We also encourage you to have Team meetings to discuss and review the enclosed materials.

If you have any questions, please call my office and speak with my assistant, Susan Stewart, at (731) 668-1893.

Let's join together in Prayer asking God to lead, guide and direct us as we follow His will. Ask Him to continue to provide encouragement to the Brazilians as they work in faith to build God's Kingdom.

In Christ,

GARY A. TAYLOR

# PIONEER MISSIONS

Pioneer Missions is a Missions organization affiliated with Union University devoted to sharing the gospel and equipping believers while utilizing volunteers. The purpose of the organization is to establish new churches in Brazil by implementing the following operating principles, vision statement, mission statement and core values.

## OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- The board of directors to provide oversight for keeping the organization focused on its mission.
- Pioneer Missions will fund U.S. and Brazilian Missionaries to teach and train Pioneer Evangelism methods to the Brazilians with a focus of starting new churches.
- Pioneer Missions will strive to maintain a zero based administrative over-head. All funds donated to Pioneer Missions will go directly to Missionaries, teaching, and training materials for sole purpose of Evangelism, discipleship, and new church starts, or as designated for special projects.
- Pioneer Missions will be involved in Social ministries, health care programs, and construction projects which will be used as platforms to share the gospel, provide discipleship training, starting home bible studies, which ultimately will lead to starting new churches.
- At the request of the Brazilian leadership, Tony and Karen Gray, the U.S. missionaries, will coordinate all volunteer projects. The U.S. Volunteers will work with Pioneer Missions while partnering with the Brazilians to accomplish the specific plans which are directly related to the mission statement of Pioneer Missions.
- The overall theme of all ministry work will be to develop programs that result in utilizing volunteers and missionaries to meet the needs of the Brazilians while developing new church starts. Pioneer Missions will strive to orientate the volunteers to work in conjunction with the Brazilians, displaying a servant attitude to accomplish the work set forth. Our goal is to work “with” them, not “for” them.
- Pioneer Missions will form partnerships with the Brazilian nationals and state leadership. The purpose of their partnerships is to develop strategies to build a network of Brazilian home missionaries specifically for the purpose of starting new churches.
- All Pioneer Missions projects will include working with the Brazilian local churches.

The Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Core Values of Pioneer Missions

### Vision Statement:

**To impact key countries around the world through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with a focus on Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and expanding around the world.**

### Mission Statement:

**Pioneer Missions, enabled by God’s grace and guidance, will seek to impact the world for Christ by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, equipping disciples, and facilitation of new church starts.**

### Core Values:

<b>Bible Based</b>	<b>Christ Centered</b>
<b>Discipleship Driven</b>	<b>Church Focused</b>

### Pioneer Mission Leadership and Missionaries

Gary Taylor:	<b>Director ~ Jackson, TN</b>
Cooper Sandusky:	<b>Director ~ Memphis, TN</b>
Shelby Massey:	<b>Director ~ Memphis, TN</b>
Susan Stewart:	<b>Administrative Coordinator ~ Jackson, TN</b>
Dr. David Dockery:	<b>President ~ Union University</b>
Tony & Karen Gray:	<b>Missionary Coordinators for Brazil</b>
Marcos & Jucileide Ferreira:	<b>Brazilian Missionaries</b>
Eduardo Soares:	<b>Brazilian Missionaries</b>

### Chapel Projects: Strategy, Processes and Local Requirements

**Among the variety of ministry of which Pioneer Missions is involved, certainly the chapel construction projects have an important role. These projects assist in the development of existing church/missions and the establishment of new church starts. In addition the chapel building projects have the potential of producing incredible results through the evangelistic impact carried out in the community. In addition, these projects help to bring rapid advancement in the development of the local church. Many of the 400 chapels already constructed in Brazil have advanced the ministry (10) years ahead due to the establishment of a church facility and impact the evangelism efforts within the community. The church facility provides a sense permanency which is culturally relative. We are careful to not create a dependency within the local church. The approach to the Pioneer Missions Chapel Program is to provide a model of helping the Brazilian local church, expand their ministry by allowing a U.S. church to adopt a church overseas on a one time basis. We offer orientation to all volunteer teams to better understand that we are all servants and partners with the nationals. Our purpose is to glorify God in our service together with the Brazilians. Our goal is to empower the Brazilians through training and strategic partnerships in evangelism and discipleship training our mission is to start new churches as a result of everything we do.**

### The Focus of Pioneer Missions

**By empowering the national's, the focus is to win the lost and disciple new Christians through starting home Bible studies thus developing into the starting of new churches.**

**Though the needs and requests from our national partners for chapels are numerous, there is a variety of prerequisites in order for a field request to have approval and become a part of the priority list.**

### Brazilian Church Requirements:

- **The leaders of the Mission, as well as the Pastor of the Mother Church, are to be trained in Pioneer Evangelism church planting methodology.**
- **The principles and methodologies of Pioneer Evangelism are being applied in the local mission/community.**
- **The Mission is to have a minimum of 15 baptized adults as members.**
- **The Mission is to have 25-30 persons attending in Sunday Services.**
- **The Mission is to have 4-6 leaders involved in developing Home Bible Studies.**
- **The Mission has local leadership which is prepared and available to carry out all the pre-project requirements, be involved in the project, and do effective follow-up after the project for further growth.**
- **The property for the chapel construction location is to be purchased by the mission or mother church with proper legal documentation.**
- **The location of the property should be strategically placed in the neighborhood being reached with the Gospel.**
- **The Mission is to have an evangelism strategy in place that will lead to the implementation of discipleship methods for the purpose of developing local leaders who will lead the church to rapid growth and be involved in local mission expansion.**
- **The Mission is to have the infra-structure (financial, administrative, volunteers) present to carry out the following;**
  - **Fulfill all pre-project requirements, receive and assist team.**
  - **Have local church volunteers work with the various ministries; which would include among others evangelism, construction, kitchen help and security.**
  - **Construct, at their expense, the chapel foundation as laid out in the chapel blueprints within one (1) month prior to the project.**
  - **Have available for the project, bathrooms, water connection, light pole, and a secured space to keep tools and supplies.**
  - **Supply a variety of materials to be used during the project.**
  - **Agree to start another church and help build a second generation church.**
  - **The project request from the mother church and mission is to be approved and voted on by the church body in its business meeting.**

Each project location is evaluated based primarily on these prerequisites. It is understood, however, that each project will have its particularities. Each situation will have some variables, but the essence of Pioneer Mission focus will be maintained.

## Chapel Construction Project Costs and Procedures for American Teams

### Roles in Processing Projects:

The process for receiving, evaluating and approving field request will be that of PM missionaries Tony and Karen Gray. The secretary for Pioneer Mission, Mrs. Susan Stewart, will be the primary contact person for American volunteer team leaders. The current process for establishing project location assignments, calendar, and the channeling of funds will continue to development and improve.

#### a. Responsibilities for Susan:

- Receive all communications and exchange of information with USA team requests from Tony Gray and coordinate with Union Univ.
- Work with teams to gather vital information, especially any required date, month, or time frame for the project.
- Offer orientation and assistance to USA teams related to travel, documentation, insurance, costs, etc.
- Work with Chapel Construction Coordinators for the establishment of assignments.
- Receive from Tony all field project location information.
- Receive the PIONEER MISSION PROJECT CALENDAR from Tony.
- Work with USA Teams and Union University on Fund processing.
- Work with Union in handling the finances of Pioneer Missions.

#### b. Responsibilities for Tony and Karen with Brazil Team

- Receive from Susan USA team info; church/entity name, team leader, type of project (there will be a variety besides chapels), and time frames and/or specific dates.
- Communicate to Susan information related to Brazilian project locations upon evaluation and field approval.
- Establish the PIONEER MISSION PROJECT CALENDAR
- Communicate and Assist USA team leaders about Project locations and share additional necessary information.
- Communicate and Assist Chapel Construction Coordinators about Construction details.
- Coordinate the Field Network to handle project logistics and get them in the communication loop.
- Assign a project number for each USA team. This number would be used on all communications related to that project.
- Work with Susan and Union University on project fund processing.
- Generate project progress reports.

### Overall Project Funding and Policies

#### ▪ Project Duration and Days:

Volunteer Projects will be designed to yield the maximum of effective ministry time while striving to limit the time volunteers are away from home and work. In addition, in order to keep costs manageable within the funds stipulated for Team Member Expenses the following schedule for Project Duration and Specific arrival and departure days have been established.

#### • Specific Travel Schedule:

- Friday: Depart USA
- Saturday: Arrive in Brazil
- Sunday-Friday: Project with Brazilian Church
- Saturday: Depart Brazil
- Sunday: Arrive in USA
- Duration: 10 days-including travel days

▪ **Team Costs:**

These are costs related to Team Members and are the responsibility of the Team Leader to acquire and process through Pioneer Missions.

- Documentation: Passport, Visa, and any other document that may be required, i.e. licenses, diploma, for medical tams.
- International Transportation: Airfare from USA to project location (which may or may not be the final flight arrival location).
- Insurance: Health insurance is required for each team member.
- Local Expenses: US\$ 700.00 per person  
These funds will cover all hotel, local transportation, meals, water, interpreters, construction leader, and logistical expenses.

▪ **Specific Project Costs:**

- Evangelism: US\$1,000.00 all teams will supply these funds.
- Chapel: US\$ 11,000.00 (materials, workers, etc.)
- Specialized Ministries:  
Depending on the ministry; i.e. medical, sports, social, etc., additional funds may need to be provided to acquire the necessary materials in order to carry out this ministry.

▪ **Interpreter's Expenses**

The costs for interpreters can become rather expensive. In many cases interpreters have to be brought to the location from distance cities. All have expenses related to hotel, food, travel and their well deserved "love gift" of US\$ 100.00.

For this reason, one (1) interpreter will be invited to participate in the project for each five (5) American volunteers. If additional interpreters are needed beyond these then additional funds of US\$ 300.00 (\$200 for travel/hotel/food and \$100 for love gift) will be made available for each interpreter needed. For example, a construction/evangelism/medical team of 20 volunteers would have four (4) interpreters to assist, however if the team decided it needed 5 more interpreters then the team would provide additional funds of \$1,500.00 for costs related to these interpreters.

▪ **Construction Leader Expense**

When a construction leader is needed to carry out a project, the USA team will have the responsibility of getting that leader to and from the field. In addition, it should be noted that that as in previous years, the in-country expenses for this person will be taken from Team Members funds.

▪ **Tourism Costs**

Tourism experiences are optional for team members. The costs for any tourism will be the responsibility of each team member. Arrangements can be made for tourism, but needed funds will to be added to the Team Member costs.

▪ **Project Number and Communications**

Each project will be assigned a number. This number is to be used to identify ALL correspondence, whether written or electronic. When communication is done through e-mails, begin the Subject Line with the Project Number. Also, place this project number on any check for Volunteer Projects.

▪ **Channels for the Processing of Project Funds**

All funds will be channeled through the account support of Union University. The following schedule for sending and processing funds is as follows;

- Chapel/Evangelism/Special Project Funds are to be received **NO LATER than MARCH 1.**
- Team Funds are to be received **NO LATER than SIXTY (60) days** prior to the Project departure date.

- All checks being sent to Pioneer Missions should be attached to a note with the following information:
  - a. Project Number:
  - b. Person / Entity Sending Funds:

**Channels for the Processing of Project Funds – CONT'D**

- c. Purpose of Funds:
  - i.e. Chapel Construction/Evangelism/Team Funds,
- d. Breakdown of Funds: Example
 

Chapel Construction:	\$11,000.00
Evangelism Funds:	\$1,000.00
Total Funds:	\$12,000.00
- f. All funds should be sent by check made out to:
 

Pioneer Missions  
AND  
Sent to the following address:  
Pioneer Missions  
85A Stonebrook Place  
Jackson, TN 38305
- g. An e-mail communication to Pioneer Missions should be sent on the day the check is sent by mail. This communication will help alert the Pioneer Missions office that funds are in route for the specified project.

**Return of Funds to USA Teams**

If after the project expenses have been calculated and paid, if there are remaining funds over US\$ 1,000.00, then the USA team would be contacted and asked how they wanted to handle the surplus funds. Pioneer Mission will a) return the funds to the proper entity church/association/etc. or b) apply these funds to missions through Pioneer Missions ministries or c) some other agreed to arrangement.

**Contact Information**

**Office of Pioneer Missions:** Gary Taylor, Brazil Director  
Susan Stewart, Secretary  
731-668-1893  
731-668-3940 (fax)  
e-mail: [gtaylor@usit.net](mailto:gtaylor@usit.net)

**Brazil Contact** Tony & Karen Gray, Brazil Strategy Coordinators  
USA phone: 601-394-5614  
USA cell: 601-525-6232  
Brazil cell: 55-21-9957-6567  
e-mail: [tonygray@pobox.com](mailto:tonygray@pobox.com)

**Brazil Contact** Marcos & Jucileide Ferreira,  
Pioneer Missions Brazilian Missionaries  
Home phone: 55-27-3261-4742  
Cell phone: 55-27-8137-4167  
e-mail: [prmarcospm@gmail.com](mailto:prmarcospm@gmail.com)

Eduardo Soares,  
Pioneer Missions Brazilian Missionaries  
Home phone:  
Cell phone:  
e-mail: [eduardosoares2003@hotmail.com](mailto:eduardosoares2003@hotmail.com)

### **Conclusion**

The vision and mission strategy of Pioneer Missions will be reached only as the Lord supplies the means through generous Partners that are committed to being involved. The joint efforts of Pioneer Mission Partners are crucial to accomplish the task.

**We are grateful for each Partner and pledge to them to be the best stewards with the gifts given, maintain a high ethic and transparency in each transaction and always be open and honest in our communications.**

**We request that each person going to Brazil be given this entire packet of material and PLEASE read and study it carefully before your arrival. We also request that each person take this material with them to Brazil, and bring it, along with your Bible, to the initial orientation meeting which will take place after your arrival.**

## **EVANGELISM PROGRAM**

PIONEER EVANGELISM PROGRAM

By: Wade Akins / Gary Taylor

Revised January 2003

**PURPOSE:** The express purpose of this program is to establish a local Baptist church in the community. This requires not only the construction of the building during impact week, but also conducting a thorough evangelistic ministry with the American team members and the local Brazilian church members.

**PREPARATION:** Make sure everyone coming can share his or her faith in a bold way. Practice doing this using the enclosed materials. These are to be used by the Missionary, Construction Team Leader, Brazil Pastor and the Volunteers.

**STRATEGY:** In most Brazilian cities and villages, Americans are a novelty and can open doors for the Brazilians in very unusual ways. Using American team members, the following will be some of our outreach activities:

1. Seek to have interviews with local newspaper reporters so that the gospel can be published.
2. Seek to visit the Mayor so that he can be given a New Testament, a gospel tract explaining the plan of salvation, and an opportunity to sign up for a correspondence Bible course and also hear the gospel by the pastor of the American team.
3. Visit local businessmen in the community, especially those from whom we have purchased materials, and invite to both the open-air meeting and the dedication service.
4. Door to door gospel tract distribution will be done to cover every house in the surrounding area. In very large cities a section of the city will be covered. Every home will be given a gospel tract with an invitational card to enroll in the correspondence course plus an invitation to attend both the open-air evangelistic meeting and the dedication service.
5. Children's evangelistic outdoor Bible clubs will be conducted throughout the day. These will be done on street corners. The American teams should bring Bible picture stories. As the story is told, they will hold up the pictures. You could have as many 12 to 15 pictures per story. An excellent source is the material from "Child Evangelism".

6. Schools will be visited. If we cannot get into the schools the team will be there as the kids are leaving to distribute tracts, correspondence cards, stickers and invitations to the meeting.
7. Sharing Christ to lost Brazilian workers at the job site is extremely important. **Reach out to them and work as a team!** When having devotions etc. mingle in with them. **Do not group up as Americans!!**
8. As the week progresses, God opens doors to make evangelistic house calls to people that we meet.
9. In some cases, clothing distribution takes place during the later part of the week in a working class area of town.
10. In most cases, an open-air meeting will take place on the weekend showing the JESUS film. Before the film, the Americans will sing as a group and one will share their testimony through an interpreter.
11. At the dedication service of the building, the Brazilian workers will be recognized. The dedication service will conclude with an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
12. After the team leaves the Pioneer Evangelist will remain to follow-up with converts according to the principals he learned in the Pioneer Evangelism training program.
13. Pray that God will encourage the church and give it strength to grow in Christ.
14. **Child Evangelism:** You may do such things as visit schools (that is the reason for the pencils), conduct home visits and V.B.S. for children. If you would like to minister to children in this way, please do the following: Bring picture stories, for example; you would hold up the different pictures as you tell the Bible stories. If you are telling the story of Jesus, you may choose to tell about his birth the first day, then have of a half dozen pictures that you could hold up and show them as you talk. The next day you could share another part of the life of Jesus with more pictures, etc.

**INFORMATION FOR CHAPEL GROUPS GOING TO BRAZIL**  
**PIONEER EVANGELISM PROGRAM**  
By: Wade Akins / Gary Taylor

You will no doubt receive a lot of information from various sources about your trip to Brazil. As for me, the orientation received from the missionary on the field is the most critical. If you read anything contrary to this, then discount it and go by the missionary's orientation.

This will serve as your **instruction manual** for your Brazil trip. We encourage every volunteer to read and study the material **at least 3-4 times before your arrival**.

**Flexibility: The most important area of the trip is to remain flexible.** We are working in a third world country and things tend to flow at a much slower rate. The 3 key words are **flexible, flexible, flexible**. People in Brazil are very laid-back and go at a different pace. So it is very important to be patient. If something major happens, like missing a flight, or lost luggage, just be calm, because things have a way of always working out. Trust the Lord!

1. **Bus:** You will be picked up by a chartered bus at the airport and taken from the airport to the Hotel in the city where you will be working.
2. **Hotel:** Please remember this is a "pioneer" mission project. The hotels, especially in the interior cities are not the quality that you are used to in the United States; however, they are adequate. So please, have your people prepared for an inferior hotel. By that I do mean a clean place, but it may not be air-conditioned, and in some rare cases you may have to sleep under a mosquito netting (depending on the location and the time of year).
3. **Food:** We will not sacrifice quality food. You will eat well. It is important that no one get sick. We ask that no one drink any water unless it is bottled mineral water, and DO NOT eat anything raw. Cholera is not indigenous to Brazil. The cases we have of the disease have all been brought in from outside of the country. If the above precautions about water and raw foods are heeded, there is no risk.
15. **Pillows:** Pillows here are thin. If anyone has a pillow need, it would be best for him to bring his own. Keep in mind when packing that you should only bring a pillow if you will have a problem sleeping on any other kind of pillow.
5. **Personal Items:** The hotels normally do not provide soap, soft towels (they do have them but they are not too fluffy), toilet tissue (they do have it, but it is rough paper), or wash cloths (they do not have). So, you may want each person to bring his own. Watch out for packing, keep it light!
6. **Refrigerator:** Some of the hotel rooms may have a small refrigerator with drinks and candy. If so, please advise everyone that if they drink or eat anything from the refrigerator it will be a "personal expense". Each person can pay for his or her drinks at the end of the week, before "checkout".

7. **Laundry:** Sometimes the hotel can wash the clothes; however, make sure that you are aware of the cost. Sometimes it is rather expensive. This is your own personal expense. Check with the construction Team Leader or missionary.
8. **Snacks:** Some groups bring their own candy, crackers, and other snack foods. Groups normally arrive around noon at their destination city. We do not go out for a noon meal due to the time it takes to get checked into the hotel. Also, whenever possible you will be taken around 6:00 p.m. to an “ALL YOU CAN EAT BRAZILLIAN MEAT HOUSE.” So, we strongly recommend that you bring your own snacks if you would like a light meal or snack for that first noon meal. Most people prefer not eating anything, due to the fact that they have eaten on the plane, and will be going out in the early evening for the main meal of the day. This may also change depending on the region.
9. **Medicines:** We recommend that people bring Pepto Bismol, Lomotil, Benadryl, Visine, suntan lotion or sunscreen, and Off insect repellent, etc. First aid items are available, but having them with you will greatly expedite matters and lower the risk of allergic reactions. **BRING WITH YOU AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF ALL REQUIRED PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES THAT YOU MIGHT NEED. DO NOT PLAN ON HAVING THEM FILLED IN BRAZIL.**
10. **Gifts:** **It is best to give out candy in an organized manner at the end of the week.** Please check with your Construction Leader before distributing candy. If not, people could get seriously injured. We suggest that you give candy at schools and other places away from the job-site. This will help keep the job site safe from small children getting hurt. Our space is usually very limited at the construction site.
11. **Clothing:** Plan to dress casual for the worship services. Ties are not necessary except for the preacher. Ladies can bring just one skirt or they may wear pants or jeans to the worship service, but no shorts. Be sure to wear work clothes (grubbies) on the job site each day for you will get dirty! Please dress modest! No short shorts, mini skirts etc. Evangelism teams can wear casual clothes, also bring good tennis shoes; lots of walking will be required. A light jacket or sweater is mandatory, as it often gets cool at night. REMEMBER WHEN IT IS SUMMER IN THE USA IT IS WINTER IN BRAZIL.
12. **Money:** **Bring Cash** – not traveler’s checks. We recommend that you exchange about \$50 for personal expenses while in Brazil. Visa credit cards and debit cards are widely accepted in stores and at atm machines. The exchange rate is very good and this is a very convenient way to make purchases.
13. **VISA:** It is necessary to have a Visa to enter Brazil (see attached form on page 33). Keep your passport locked up inside your suitcase at all times inside your hotel room. In some cases, the hotel itself will put the passports in the hotel safe, and in other cases this is not possible. Check with your construction Team Leader.
14. **Customs:** We must be careful and not offend custom officials, and you must do things according to their ways. You are a visitor and a guest ONLY in Brazil.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE should you say to custom officials that you are a MISSIONARY. DO NOT SAY THIS! To be a missionary in Brazil you must have a PERMANENT Visa, and they can take this very seriously. **You are a visitor doing volunteer work with the Baptist Church.**

16. **International Calls:** Please dial the following **NEW** local access numbers;  
AT&T 0800-890-0288  
MCI 0800-890-0012  
SPRINT 0800-890-8000 You will get an English-speaking operator. You can check here in the States about the rates, etc. The 0008010 number **no** longer works.
17. **School Kids:** Many groups **bring pencils with erasers** with them. This opens up many, many doors in the schools. Many of the Brazilian pencils do not have erasers. We can get into the schools and share the gospel with the pencils. Bring at least 3,000 pencils if possible. Again, this will open many doors to share Christ in the schools. The missionary will show you how to do this during the orientation time once you arrive in Brazil.
18. **Touching:** Brazil is a touchy society. The Brazilian people are very loving and warm. Plan to get lots and lots of hugs while you are there. Touch and be loving to the children. Give them lots of attention and hugs. They will love you. Also do not misinterpret the touching for something it is not. Stress this with any young people coming.
19. **Weather:** Brazil is as large as the mainland USA, so it is a very large nation. The weather varies according to location and time of year. Remember that Brazil is south of the equator, so that means that the seasons are opposite. Yet, that can be a little deceiving. In Minas Gerais, it can and does get cold (40 to 60 degrees) from June-September, especially at night. On the other hand it can get up to 80 to 90 degrees in the daytime during this time. Usually, the rule of thumb is, the further the south that you go the colder it gets, and the closer to the Equator, the hotter it gets. If you are going to the south, pack a light jacket or sweatshirt for cool nights. A good brim hat to keep the sun off your head is also required. Check with your missionary for specific weather advisories.
20. **Smoking:** No one who participates in a volunteer project in Brazil can use tobacco products of any kind. Baptists in Brazil **DO NOT SMOKE** or **CHEW TOBACCO**. Evangelical Christians do not use tobacco. Baptists in Brazil actually exclude members from their churches for smoking. So, if one smokes, he or she must make a commitment not to smoke while on the mission trip. If this is violated then arrangements will have to be made for that person to return to the U.S. A. on the first available flight. **IT IS THAT SERIOUS.**

- 21. Earrings:** Males cannot wear earrings, to the Brazilian Christians this is a symbol that this man is a homosexual, so please, if you wear earrings, leave them at home. Females may want to leave expensive earrings at home too.
- 22. Evangelism Material:** Please study carefully with your group before coming to Brazil the material on evangelism. This is the material on how to lead a Bible study, Catholicism, Spiritism and how to give an invitation. **THIS IS IMPORTANT IF YOU WANT TO MINISTER TO THE PEOPLE IN THEIR CULTURE!**
- 30. Team Work: Please** follow at all times the instructions of your Team Leader.
- A. We will work as a team of Americans and Brazilians, not as individuals.
  - B. Do not go out by yourselves on the streets. Always let someone know where you will be.
  - C. Never make a promise to anyone that you will do something for them in the future. For example: Don't say, "I will send you some money when I get back to the US", or "I will have you come and visit me in the US" or "I will get you a scholarship, etc.
  - D. Be on time at all times. If we say be at breakfast at 6:00, this does not mean 6:15. Just one person late will make EVERYONE late and will cause problems for our entire team.
  - E. Plan to attend the nightly devotions after supper and bring your Bible.
  - F. Please do not make any noise in the hotel after 10:00 p.m. You do not have to go to bed, but you cannot make noise. Remember that this is a hotel and there will be other people there such as traveling businessmen, etc.
  - G. Be warm and friendly to everyone you meet. Brazilians love to give hugs. So, just hug everyone that you meet, especially the kids.
  - H. The key to success of this entire ministry is **PRAYER**. So, spend time in daily prayer for hundreds of lost people. Get yourself a prayer partner and encourage your Sunday School Classes and church to pray while you are gone.
- 31. Tools:** Each volunteer working construction may bring their own small hand tools such as hammers; nail pouch, tape measures, etc. (we also have these here in Brazil) The power tools are already there in Brazil, unless we contact you otherwise to help bring them into the country. If you bring old tools and would like to, you can give them away at the end of the week to a Brazilian worker that you may come close to during the week. These have been some special times in the past.
- 32. Packing:** It is important to pack light. We suggest you pack everything into medium to large size suitcase or duffel bag. (This allows us to store it better on the buses in Brazil). Check with your airline about weight limits. **Also, bring a small carry-on bag with your first night's clothing just in case your baggage gets rerouted and does not arrive the same time you do.** A suggestion about baggage is to clearly mark all the team's baggage with a bright colored ribbon or some type of tag or tape so that it can easily be identified at the baggage claim.

33. **Name tags;** Some groups have found it helpful to bring laminated nametags with them. This is optional. You may bring some extra blank ones with you for the Brazilians as well if you desire. Bring a permanent marker to write the names on the extra ones.
34. **Jewelry and personal items:** It is strongly recommended that you leave expensive jewelry at home. It will only call unnecessary attention to your self. Men it is a good idea to go through your wallet and leave at home anything you will not need and would not want to lose.
35. **Cameras:** **Large expensive cameras are NOT recommended.** These also call a lot of attention to your self. The disposable cameras are very economical now and take great pictures. You may want to bring several. Polaroid cameras are a hit, especially with the children.
36. **Other evangelistic materials:** We will have stickers printed in Brazil that say "Jesus loves you". In addition, two other items have been found to be effective evangelistic tools. Pencils with John 3:16 in Portuguese engraved on them. Frisbees with the story of the prodigal son and plan of salvation written on the back in Portuguese. These two items are available in the USA. Please order early.

**For John 3:16 pencils contact:** Marion Barbare Co. in Greenville, SC phone number (864) 244-8144. They already have the translation in Portuguese. One thousand pencils cost \$180 for everything (tax and s&h). If you find a better deal elsewhere and would like a translation of John 3:16 let us know.

**For gospel Frisbees contact:** Slip Disc Ministries (803) 438-8732. The owners are Geri and Jackie Gibbs. Their web site is <http://slipdiscministries.com>. They also already have the translation in Portuguese.

**GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU PREPARE TO COME SERVE THE LORD IN BRAZIL!**

## HOW TO GIVE AN INVITATION IN BRAZIL

By: Wade Akins

Most of the visitors that will be attending the services have never ever heard the pure gospel of Christ in their entire lives, and have never been to an evangelical church service. Thus, everything will be strange to them including the invitation. I am not telling anyone how to do it, but only sharing the way I do it here in Brazil.

**Before we begin, let's observe the following facts about Brazilian people and beliefs:**

1. Most have never ever heard the gospel of Christ and understood the plan of salvation.
2. Most have never been to an evangelical service and may never again return. Thus, it is extremely important that a good, simple, clear presentation of the gospel be presented.
3. **Almost all Brazilians know the gospel story forwards and backwards. The whole society is based on Catholic culture. They even have cities here named Savior, Bethlehem, and one state is named Holy Spirit. So, it is not the gospel that they do not know and understand. The problem is they have mixed-up Mary worship, the worship of idols, images, spirits, and saints with the gospel. So, if you are not careful, they will just add Jesus Christ to these other gods, and you can give them a false sense of salvation.**
4. Most Brazilians believe in reincarnation, due to the strong influence of spiritism. So watch yourself when you say, "you must be born again." They may not be defining the word like you do. It is good to use it, but the point is, carefully explain it.
5. Most Brazilians think they receive Christ every Sunday at mass. So, if you use that phrase, again, be sure you define it. You may want to take this next part to the pulpit with you, and preach or read through it, at the conclusion of your message. You will have a few seconds after each phrase to look at it while your interpreter repeats what you say in Portuguese.

Now, let's look at the steps:

**STEP ONE:** The conclusion of the sermon --

I always conclude every message with this statement: "**Christ died for your sins and rose again. He is alive right now and wants to come and live in your heart. Your heart is your soul, your inner being. He wants to transform your life and give you a new life now and eternal life with him in heaven forever.**"

**STEP TWO:** To receive Christ into your heart you must do two things:

**STEP THREE:** First, to receive Christ you must be willing to **repent of your sins**. To repent means to turn from your sins. It means that you are willing to let Christ come in and take full control of your life and be your boss and Lord. Are you willing to do that?

**STEP FOUR:** To receive Christ you **must trust your faith ONLY in Him**. What is real faith? Real faith is to stop all trust and confidence in Mary, idols, saints, images, your

good works, your religion, a church, your baptism and to trust only Jesus Christ to save you from your sins. (Observe: This is making the gospel relevant to the culture. I would not say all of this in Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, or Tennessee. etc.)

**STEP FIVE:** How can you do this? By faith you can ask Christ to enter into your heart right now in prayer. The Bible says, "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." **You can do this right now.**

**STEP SIX:** Ask everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes. Then say: "**all of you who want to receive Christ into your life repeat this prayer after me right now from your heart.**" (Lead in a sinner's prayer. It is not prayer that saves, not even faith - it is Jesus Christ.)

**STEP SEVEN:** After praying say: "All of you who prayed that prayer with all your heart and who truly trusted Christ tonight raise your hands."

**STEP EIGHT:** Now I would like for all of you who trusted Christ to just stand up and come to the altar. Do not be ashamed of Christ. If you truly trusted Christ I want you to come up here. Why? I want to say a special prayer for you right now. -- At that time leave the pulpit and step out in front.

**STEP NINE:** After they have all come forward, have a special prayer. I usually have them to repeat **I John 5:12, "He who has the Son has life"** and explain that if they truly trusted Christ then He is in their heart and they do have life. I usually do this before I pray with them.

It is not necessary for you to go into long speeches about follow-up. For the most part they will neither hear nor understand you. **Remember, you are dealing with people who for the most part have no idea of the meaning of many of your evangelical terminology.** The local church people will be trained in this area and can do it far better than you can. Just keep it short and simple once they come forward or else you will cause them to miss buses for home (many use public buses) and delay the service so much that they will not want to ever come back to the church. Please keep this in mind.

**STEP TEN:** Ask the pastor or the leader of the church to take them to a special place to give them a New Testament, a correspondence course, and to get their names and addresses.

## **HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL**

If you died today, do know for sure that you would go to heaven? Suppose you were standing before God, this very moment, and he asked you, "why should I allow you to enter into my heaven?" What would you say? Well, let us look at how you can have certainty of eternal life, according to the Bible. Let us now understand four truths:

### **1. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE:**

The Bible says in I John 5:13, "These things I have written to you, who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." The purpose of this verse is to show you that the Lord God loves you, and wants you to know for sure that you have eternal life. Eternal life is:

A. Knowing Jesus Christ and having peace in your heart right now (John 17:3).

B. Living with Jesus Christ in heaven, for all eternity, after you die (John 14:1-3). Today you can have assurance of eternal life, according to the Bible.

### **2. YOUR NEEDS:**

The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and have come short of the glory of God." The purpose of this verse is to show that we are all sinners.

- Sin is disobedience to God. For example, all of us have had hate, jealousy, and lust in our hearts. We have all lied, been selfish and proud, etc. Do you recognize that you have sins in your life?
- The Bible says in Romans 6:23, "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- The purpose of this verse is to show you that all of us deserve to die and go to hell because of our sin. Death means separation from God in two ways.
- In the first place, death is the separation from God, now in this life. This results in a life without joy, peace, and the certainty of eternal life. This is a life without Jesus in your heart now. The result of a life like this is an empty heart, and a life full of tension.
- In the second place, death is separation from God for all eternity, in hell. This is a life without Christ during all eternity.
- According to the Bible, we deserve death because of the sin in our lives.

### **3. GOD'S PROVISION:**

Many people are doing many things unsuccessfully to reach God. Such as: Good lives, being moral, attending worship services or mass, praying to saints, and believing in reincarnation. All of these efforts have no power to eliminate the sin in our lives. The only way to reach God is through Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Romans 5:8. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The purpose of this verse is to show us that Jesus Christ is our only Lord, Mediator, and Savior because He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins.

RIGHT HERE ON THE TRACK IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF A MAN GOING TO GOD OVER THE BRIDGE WHO IS CHRIST.

After Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, He resurrected from the dead. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is your only Lord, Savior, and Mediator?

**4. YOUR ANSWER:**

The Bible says in Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

The purpose of this verse is to show us that to receive Jesus you must repent of your sins, and put your faith in Him as your only Lord, Savior and Mediator.

This verse says that to receive Jesus, you must confess Christ as your only Lord. This means that you must abandon your sins, and turn your life around for Jesus. This verse also shows us that to receive Jesus, you must put your faith in Him as your only Lord, Savior and Mediator. This means that you must quit trusting in other things, such as a good works, mortality, worship service, mass and prayers to saints, and reincarnation, and trust **only** in Jesus Christ as your only Savior. Are you ready to quit trusting in other things and give your life to Jesus Christ right now?

The bible says in Romans 10:13, "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." The purpose of this verse is to show that if anyone will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. This means that you can accept Jesus into your heart right now by faith. Are you ready to give your life to Jesus, and ask him into your life right now?

Say this prayer in your heart: Lord, I am a sinner. I trust in you as my Lord, Savior, and Mediator. I give you my life. Come into my heart, and save me right now. Transform my life. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Do you believe Jesus answered your prayer? So, where is Jesus right now? Are you saved?

If you trusted Jesus, today, as your only Lord, Savior, and Mediator and would like to receive some support material, fill out the lines below, tear this page, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the page. You will then receive a free Bible study in the mail.

## HOW TO LEAD THE HOME BIBLE STUDIES

By: Wade Akins

Some of the home studies will be planned others will not be. If one is not already scheduled, then you can just go up cold turkey to a home, and share who you are, and that you have a Bible to give them free of charge, and ASK if you can come in for about 15 minutes to explain how to read it. I have never been refused.

1. Introduce yourself and the team members.
2. Give each family a New Testament and explain that you are going to show them how to read it.
3. Explain that the New Testament has 27 books. The first 4 books are about the life of Jesus Christ. The fifth book Acts is about how the church got started. The rest of the books are about doctrines -- our beliefs. The last book tells us how the world will end.
4. Explain how to read a book. Show them how to find Matthew chapter one. Then explain that the big numbers represent the chapters. Show them the big numbers. Explain that the little numbers represent the verses. Show them the little numbers.
5. Explain to them that you are going to show them some key verses. (The plan of salvation). Start with I John 5:12 -- this verse explains that you can know for sure if you have eternal life. Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 13.
6. Give an invitation to accept Christ.
7. Invite them to the services at the church.

## UNDERSTANDING CATHOLICISM IN BRAZIL

It is very, important that you understand some facts about the doctrines of the Catholic Church. In this section, we will study a few Catholic beliefs, and the biblical answers for their wrong teachings.

### I. PETER and THE POPE

Catholicism teaches that Peter was the first Pope and the first bishop of Rome. It teaches that Peter was given the keys to the kingdoms of heaven and that this authority has been transferred from Pope to Pope in an uninterrupted succession.

#### **ANSWER:**

1. There is not one verse in the Catholic Bible to prove that this is true.
2. In Paul's epistle to the Romans, Peter's name was not mentioned once. If he were the bishop of Rome, surely his name would have been mentioned.
3. Peter never supported this condition in his own epistles.
4. The name Peter, Petros in Greek, - means "a rock". Jesus Christ is referred to as Petra. This means "the rock". In Matthew 16:18 Christ did not say that Peter would be the Pope, rather he said that Jesus was the Chief Cornerstone. Read I Corinthians 3:1 1. Ephesians 2:21 says that the church would be constructed on the fundamentals of the apostles and the prophets; it does not say that it will be constructed only on one of the epistles or prophets.  
**In I Peter 2:7, Peter refers to Christ as the principal rock.**
5. Peter never claimed to have authority over heaven and earth. The Bible leaves it very clear that only Jesus Christ has this authority. Read Matthew 28: 1 8 and Ephesians 1: 19-23.
6. Peter does not have authority to open or close the door to heaven for man. Only Jesus Christ is the door for salvation. Read John 10:9
7. Peter was not the first bishop nor was the Catholic Church the first church. The first church was in Jerusalem and its pastor was James.
8. The theology of the Catholic Church is not based on the word of God but on tradition. Pay attention to these facts:
  - a. Three hundred years after the beginning of the church in Jerusalem, Constantine became a member of the church. He allowed the church to have a pagan priest.
  - b. In the year 1100 ad., the church began prayers for the dead and worship of angels and saints, mass.
  - c. In 1125 they imposed the celibate clergy.
  - d. In 1190 they imposed the selling of indulgences.
  - e. In 1215 they imposed the transubstantiation of the bread and wine.
  - f. In 1215 they imposed the confession of sins to the priest.
  - g. In 1438 purgatory was proclaimed.
  - h. In 1854 the Immaculate Conception of Mary.
  - i. In 1870 the infallibility of the Pope.
  - j. In 1950, the ascension of Mary.

### II. MARY

Catholicism teaches that Mary was the mother of God and that she is the mediator between man and Jesus Christ. It teaches that Mary was without sin and is the door to heaven and the help for souls. It teaches that prayers should be directed to her. It also teaches that she was bodily taken to heaven.

### **ANSWER:**

1. Mary cannot be the mother of God. If she was, God would not be eternal because she would have existed before God. In fact, Jesus never referred to Mary as his mother. He referred to her as "woman".
2. Mary is not the mediator between God and man - only Jesus. (I Timothy 2:5, Acts 4:12)
3. Christ is the only assistance for souls (I Timothy 1: 12).
4. Not one apostle or saint of the Bible ever prayed to Mary.
5. Not one verse in the Bible says that Mary ascended into Heaven. Acts 1: 14 mentions Mary for the last time. Not one of the apostles mentions her name. The Bible is very clear to say that there is only one advocate and intercessor (I John 2:1-2).
6. Mary gave birth to at least six more children after Jesus (Matthew 13:55-56).

### **III. MASS AND COMMUNION**

Catholicism teaches that mass is the sacrifice of the blood and body of Jesus Christ. It is the same sacrifice that was offered by Jesus on the cross. It teaches that the bread in the hands of the priest is transformed into the real body of Christ - transubstantiation.

#### **ANSWER:**

1. Read Hebrews 10: 11-12. Jesus Christ is the only necessary sacrifice that will take away sins.
2. Transubstantiation is a contradiction to the Bible. In I Corinthians 11:22-34, the Bible speaks of the bread as being bread  
In Matthew 26:26- 30. Christ refers to the wine as being fruit of the vine and not as blood.

### **IV. PURGATORY**

Catholicism teaches that purgatory is the place where the souls of the faithful are purified after death. This is where they get ready to go to heaven. They believe that the sacrifices made by the living to the dead will diminish their suffering. It teaches that the Pope has the power to leave the souls in purgatory or to free them when he feels that the money and the sacrifices have been paid.

#### **ANSWER:**

1. There is not one verse in the bible that refers to purgatory.
2. In Luke 16, Jesus says that there is an abyss between heaven and hell and that no one can pass across from one to the other.
3. Hebrews 9:27 says that when a man dies he is judged. It does not help to pray for the dead.

### **V. BAPTISM**

The Catholic Church teaches that baptism is a sacrament that purifies man from his original sin. It makes a person a Christian and a Son of God.

#### **ANSWER:**

John 1: 12-13 and Galatians 3:26 teaches that only receiving Jesus Christ can save someone. (Acts 4:10-12. Romans 10:9-10).

1. I John 1: 7 teaches that the blood of Jesus and not baptism can take away our sins. The thief on the cross received salvation never having been baptized.

## UNDERSTANDING BRAZILIAN SPIRITISM

By: Sherry Akins

Spiritism is a term used to describe the belief in the spirit world and in the communication with spirits for the purpose of receiving messages, consultations, or services, both good and bad. Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Leviticus 19:31 and 20:6, Galatians 5:19-21. Spiritism in Brazil is a mixture of beliefs and cultures. It includes the teachings of Allan Kardec, religious practices and beliefs of the Indians, as well as those of Africa. Spiritism is divided into two classes: High Spiritism and Low Spiritism. However, today these distinctions are diminishing and the differences are less.

High Spiritism (Kardecism) follows the teaching of Allan Kardec. Kardecism teaches the following:

1. God is eternal, immutable, omnipotent, unique, just and good.
2. God created the world including all living and non-living things, material and immaterial.
3. Man is a material being and spirits are the immaterial beings.
4. The spirit world is normal, primitive and eternal.
5. A spirit is not an abstract or undefined being. It is real and has power to manifest itself, sometimes so that man can see, hear or touch it.
6. Reincarnation: "Man is born, dies, always progresses and reincarnates. This is the law" (Allan Kardec). The biblical reference that speaks about the resurrection, according to Kardec refers to reincarnation. Read Hebrews 9:27.
7. All is progressing and improving; therefore, forgiveness of sin is not necessary.
8. Jesus is the perfect model that God sent to show us how man should be. He is the Son of God only in the sense in that He is the most perfect of the spirits. Read John 1:32-34, Matthew 3:6-17.

Kardecism has three orders of spirits according to the degree of perfection that they have achieved. The first order only has one class. These are the pure spirits and the material does not influence them. They have obtained perfection and they are the messengers and ministers of God. The second order has four classes and is comprised of good spirits. These spirits are characterized by their desire to do good and they dominate the material. The classes are:

1. High Spirits
2. Wise Spirits
3. Educated Spirits
4. Benevolent Spirits

The third order has five classes and these spirits are not "finished". They are only beginning to improve. They are characterized by their tendency to do evil, their ignorance, pride, selfishness and evil passions. In this order the material dominates the spirit.

The heart of Kardecism is the spirit session where the followers sit around the table and wait for the spirit. All followers meditate until the medium receives the spirit that will bring the message. This message can either be a word of comfort or advice, a medical prescription, etc. In Kardecism the medium is conscious.

There are three kinds of followers of Kardecism:

1. The directors of the centers, the leaders of the institutes and the mediums.
2. The faithful followers who frequently attend the sessions, participate in the work, and believe the doctrines.
3. Those interested who desire comfort or council.

**Low Spiritism:** Low Spiritism is a term used to refer to those types of Spiritism that originated in Africa or from the Indians. In these last years, their beliefs have changed and have come closer to Kardecism. They are now more accepted by the Brazilian people and these beliefs also have mixed with Catholicism and saints.

**1. Candomble** - In the beginning, the Candomble referred to African beliefs. Today, however, it refers to the Afro-Brazilian cults of Bahia and other Brazilian cults in general. Candomble means the worship of various African gods called orixas. The original orixas have been forgotten. Many have been abandoned and others have been added. There are about one hundred gods that are used in various forms. Each god has his own fetish (rock, image, place, etc.) where the god inhabits. The most important orixa is Oxala. It is also identified in Bahia as our Lord of Bonfim.

Xango - Xango is another powerful orixa. He is the god of lightening, storms and meteors. In the northeast section Brazil Xango is referred to as its own cult, rather than a god of Candomble.

Exu - Exu is generally identified with the devil. Offerings to other gods can only be done to someone who is specifically dedicated to that god, but anyone can make an offering to Exu. In some sects or groups an offering is given to Exu so that he will not interfere with the work of other gods.

The Candomble is more identified by its public festival than anything else, and the heart of the festival is the crisis of possession. The festival proceeds in a specific order.

The first phase is a two-legged animal sacrifice to Exu, and a four legged animal sacrifice to the god that is celebrated at the festival. After this comes the food offering made of specially prepared food for the gods. One part of the animal belongs to the god and the rest is cooked. One part is placed on the altar, and the followers and the visitors at the end of the ceremony eat the rest. At nightfall, the *pade* (the rite) is offered with songs by two of the youngest daughters of the saint. After this a cup of water and a plate of food are offered and left on a crossroad. A prayer is said for the dead and elders of Candomble. This is done to send away the devil so that the Candomble may continue.

Tambourines, which have been baptized by holy water at the Catholic Church, call the gods without singing or dancing.

The gods are then invited one by one, by his own particular dance, to participate. In response to the god, the god possesses one of the people. Another song will then begin to another god, and he will come and possess another person. Once a god possesses a person, he is dedicated to that god and cannot be possessed by any other god.

The last rite is the *unlo*. This is when the gods are sent away. Each Candomble is independent and often rivalry exists. The Candomble is also characterized by the practice of magic (black or white which means good or bad). The Candomble has mixed many of the spirits that have come from the Indians. The place where the Candomble unites is called "the field".

Xango is the name given to the Afro-Brazilian Orixá call of the northeastern part of Brazil. It is very similar to the Candomble, however, it is more intertwined with Catholicism. For example, the meetings are always in honor of a Catholic saint.

**2. Batugue** - Batugue is a term used to describe the cults of Belem, Para and the northern region of Brazil. The major difference between Batugue and Candomble is that the Orixas are neither identified with Catholic saints or African gods. The spirits are called *enchanters*.

**3. Macumba** - Is the name for the African spiritism practiced in the area of Rio de Janeiro. In each Macumba there are several levels of spirits. These include the spirits of those who have died, Orixas of the Candomble, Catholic saints and Indian spirits. Macumba serves as a bridge between African spiritism and Kardecism. It receives its name from a percussion instrument that is played at the meetings that is called the Macumba.

**4. Umbanda** - Umbanda is another name to describe a movement that unites Kardecism and African spiritism. In Umbanda the supreme god is *Olorum*. It also includes three gods that are somewhat similar to the trinity of Christianity: *Batata* (the father), *Oxala* (the Son), *Ifa* (the Holy Spirit). The Umbanda recognizes seven types of spirits, which correspond to the orders, or classes of Kardecism. Each field of Umbanda is independent and has an altar dedicated to *Exu*. The largest altar has various different images of orixas in the form of Catholic figures that represent the old black man (of Macumba) and Indian gods.

The Umbanda session called *Gera* is under the direction of a mother or father of a saint. The session begins with lots of movements by tambourines in order to remove any evil influences from the people that will receive the spirits, and from their helpers. Some practice the sacrifices as in Candomble. They drink a Brazilian alcoholic beverage called Cachaca, they smoke cigars, and hit their tambourines together in rhythm in order to invite the spirits to participate. The spirits then come and "mount their horses" (possess the people). Each person is possessed by a different spirit and manifests the nature of the spirit through characteristic sounds and actions. The leader of the field stops the music and the "horses" are led to a place to sit down. The people with their questions for the spirits stand in line and wait for their consultation. Under the possession of the spirit each "horse" helps the people with their problems. Finally, a special song is sung to send the spirits away. Kardecism and Umbanda are closely related because they have heavily influenced each other. For example, some groups of Umbanda don't drink alcoholic beverages and do not use tambourines. Some groups of Kardecists use candles, images, white dresses and limit their food and sex on the day of the session.

Umbanda is primarily interested in the problems that have arisen in Brazilian beliefs concerning the supernatural. It teaches how to "open and close the body", "to open and close the way" and "to bind and erase the evil look". To "close the body" has as its objective to protect a person against the visible and invisible evil. The "open the body" has as its objective to cause the exact opposite. To "open or close the way": if a person does not achieve a goal it may be because spiritual forces are inhibiting him. He should then perform the rite called "the unloading". To bind is a process in which a person will be able to feel or do something specific. For example, you can bind the affections of a boyfriend. "To erase" refers to undoing magic. Umbanda is interested in helping people; however, the *Ouimbanda* is the opposite and is dedicated to the works of black magic.

The greatest distinction between Candomble and Umbanda is that in Candomble the orixa possesses a person dedicated to him, and the emphasis is on fellowship with the ancient gods. In Umbanda the spirit of the dead possesses a medium, and the emphasis is to receive help.

## **Why is a person attracted to Spiritism?**

The answer to this is that traditional religion has not met the spiritual needs of that person and has not helped him with his problems. When a person has a problem and they look for help, spiritism tries to help him. A person then looks for the type of spiritism that he feels will be most helpful. The process of conversion to spiritism begins with a problem that he takes to a medium. The second phase is when he sees the medium possessed. This proves to him that the spirit world really exists. He sees other people being helped and perhaps may even have experienced possession himself. This experience in reality is a practice of religion. The third phase is conviction. The person comes to the point where he accepts the validity and becomes a follower.

Another attraction to spiritism is that a person may feel a part of a group and may count on the support of his colleagues. A third attraction is that spiritism tries to provide an explanation for irrational and mysterious things. A fourth reason is that traditional religion has not provided a role or a function for the layman.

Spiritism attracts people because it is very interested in social needs, and contains social organizations to help the needy.

## **How to Witness and Council a Spiritist**

1. Recognize the reality of spirits (demons) and their attitude (Ephesians 6:12). Spirits are to spiritists messengers of God.
2. Manifest and demonstrate love in Jesus' name (John 13:34-35).
3. Confront the quality of worship. Present the aggressiveness of the rites verses the gentleness of Jesus' love.
4. Remember that God is stronger and more powerful than all the demons of hell (John 4:4). Spiritists do not recognize Jesus' grace and His love. They are accustomed to do favors for file spirits they serve. However, Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for thee". Show them that reincarnation doesn't exist. Only Jesus Christ can save (Acts 4:12-, Hebrews 9:27; Luke 23:33-46; Romans 10:9-10).
5. Emphasize that Jesus is victorious over all adversaries, and that there is nothing to fear (Galations 1:4. Colossians 2:16). The spiritist is afraid to leave spiritism because he has been threatened with his own life, with the life of his family members, and with his material goods. Jesus is bigger.
6. Be positive in your presentation.
7. Emphasize that he should completely leave everything that relates with spiritism because no one can serve two masters (lords).