

TEACH THE NATIONS - PRINCIPIA'S MISSIONARY OUTREACH - IS LAUNCHED!

The Vision

Elizabeth Youmans

Jan Amos Comenius, 17th century Moravian pastor and 'father of modern education,' inspired this Teach the Nations vision. Comenius is known today in the Czech Republic (formerly Moravia) as the 'Teacher of Nations.' Although persecuted and exiled from his beloved homeland, he continued to teach and publish biblical principles of education for both boys and girls, regardless of their station in life! He wholeheartedly gave to others what God imparted to him about education. His wholistic Christian concepts and writings brought him great trials and suffering but continue to greatly inspire modern educators in the 21st century.

Two summers ago, I had the privilege of teaching in the Czech Republic and touring the home of Comenius. His life and legacy inspired this vision for Principia to match master teachers to the Macedonian cries from school founders and pastors around the world who desire to implement principle-based Christian education and be mentored longterm. The vision is to travel two-by-two blessing others with one's training, life experiences, and acquired educational tools and receive the eternal joy of discipling educators and piloting *Principia's Feed My Lambs Programs* in the developing world.

Launching the Outreach

In August 2003, Principia commissioned Nancy Hameloth, a Stonebridge School fourth grade master teacher who has over 20 years experience and a large heart for the nations. When Nancy first heard our vision, her heart was captured! We sent her to Instituto de Educação Cristã Imago Dei, one of our South American demonstration schools in Parnamirim, Brazil. Imago Dei is a pre-K to fourth grade primary school, where I had trained the faculty in July 2002. The day I telephoned the school founders, Rubens and Daniella Cartaxo, to ask if they needed help, they began weeping and related that their school had been on a forty day fast petitioning God for encouragement and resources and this was the 40th day! The week I spoke to Nancy, someone gave her a check that completely covered her travel expenses, so we knew we were in the center of God's eternal plan.

A Missionary Teacher's Testimony

Nancy Hameloth

God's mighty Hand of Providence forever changed my life when He opened the door to serve Him in Parnamirim, Brazil in August. I experienced His miraculous provision of finances and guidance, which directed every step of the way! When I first heard about the opportunity to establish a relationship with a school in northeastern Brazil, I was very excited. I had been praying for Principia every day for over a year and believed that maybe one day I, too, would be used of the Lord to share my giftings and years of experience with others. When Elizabeth approached me, my first question was, "How much will it cost?" She informed me that \$1,000 would cover all expenses. Now, I am a widow with two youth to support and finances are always tight, so I said, "If God wants me to go, He will provide the finances." The very next day, I received a \$1,000 check from a family who had no idea I was praying about a missionary trip to Brazil!

But God knew, and He provided out of His bountiful resources! My next hurdle was traveling. A Stonebridge colleague had planned to accompany me, but at the last minute the dates proved an obstacle for her. This meant I would be traveling alone and didn't speak Portuguese. But God was with me all the way. When I was in a small Brazilian airport, I was waiting at the posted gate, but no one else was there! I prayed and asked God to send help. Just then, a bilingual gentleman came up and informed me that the gate had been changed, and he led me to the proper one. I never saw him board the plane, but he was there just when I needed assistance!

When I arrived in Parnamirim, I was met by the most wonderful people I have ever had the blessing to know! They were so warm and friendly and welcomed me as one of their family members. We met together every day to study God's Word. Each morning I observed in the classrooms and in the afternoons, I taught the principles and methods of Principle Approach education. It was an anointed time in the Lord. The teachers were open to learn what God had for them, because they had embraced the vision a year ago and were not willing to turn back! They truly found "the pearl of great price and sold everything to buy the field." Over the past year, they have faced persecution and ridicule for committing to a new philosophy of education. The joy of their obedience far exceeds the tribulation and challenges they have faced, and they have determined to enter the promised land of biblical, Christian education.

One evening, 50 local pastors gathered for a Principia vision casting lecture. After hearing about the potential fruit of Christian education in the lives of individuals, families, church and community, they covenanted to pray and support the work of Imago Dei. I believe friendships and lasting relationships were established that will build a strong commitment to Christian education within the local church.

The day I departed Parnamirim, I was not alone in the airport! New friends accompanied me to send me home in love. They brought a guitar and we worshipped the Lord right there in the airport with English and Portuguese songs. This was a special moment that I will never forget. As we sang "How Great Thou Art," I began to sign the song to help them understand the message, when suddenly, I had a flashback to a day when I was just a little girl standing in front of a mirror in our living room singing "How Great Thou Art" to the Lord. My father came by and laughed at me, and I said, "Don't laugh at me, one day I will sing before nations." My Dad sobered and said, "That's right, honey, I believe you!" Dad passed away when I was fifteen, but I believe he was watching from Heaven and saw his little girl, now almost fifty, singing to the Lord in that Brazilian airport! God truly has a plan for our lives. As I sang that song and worshipped the Lord with my newfound friends, I realized that it was all part of God's eternal plan for my life, which He wrote before the foundation of the world.

My relationship with Imago Dei is eternal. I am working with them to develop a Brazilian curriculum. Our goal is to create the heart of missions in our children through on-going prayers, support, and communication. Thank you, Principia, for giving me this life-changing

Nancy Hameloth leads a full life as a mother of two teenage children, a fourth grade teacher at Stonebridge School in Chesapeake, VA, a doctoral student and adjunct professor at Regent University, and a deacon in her church. Her investment in Parnamirim enabled the Imago Dei leaders and students to experience the love of an American Christian in contrast to "the commercial and imperialistic view of Americans portrayed by the Brazilian media." (Fernando Guarany) Next summer, one of Nancy's colleagues and her husband will accompany her to Parnamirim. They will be trained by Dr. Youmans to pilot the Feed My Lambs Program in Parnamirim, Brazil.

Feed My Lambs Translated in Portuguese

Elizabeth Youmans

Simone Youmans, my special Brazilian daughter-in-law, former graduate student, traveling companion and translator, translated a portion of the *Feed My Lambs Introductory Unit* into Portuguese for Imago Dei. Simone was my translator last summer in Parnamirim, and her heart, like Nancy's and mine, was touched by their genuine love and hospitality, as well as their commitment to employ biblical, Christian education in their school. The fruit of her labor inspired the following response from the school founders:



Instituto de Educação Cristã Imago Dei
Parnamirim, Brazil
06 August 03

Dear doctor Elizabeth and sister Simone,

We are immensely grateful for Principia's gifts and sensitivity towards us and our ministry here in Brazil. We are greatly encouraged with the presence of sister Nancy. She has blessed us much, encouraging, challenging, and teaching us. We are very happy with everything. We'd like to share a very special moment from our week:

Yesterday morning, my heart rejoiced when I saw and took in my hands the Feed My Lambs curriculum translated into my own language. I felt that God was moving for Brazil. Simone, the calling to translate materials into Portuguese is now not only yours. Now I feel the calling is ours, too.

I believe this curriculum will be like a bomb that will destroy the shackles of misery and ignorance of our people, who have been enslaved by the enemy for so long. These are spiritual, abolitionist ideas, just as the ones of our Princess Isabel, who under the influence of the American ideal of liberty, promulgated the Aurea Law. Today, this inspires us to say that "Liberty has arisen in the Brazilian horizon," (a phrase from the Brazilian national anthem).

For a nation with so many problems and difficulties as ours, I know that this project of complementary education will be very profitable and will reach many people, until, at last, the educational structures are reformed and Christian education can grow. We commit ourselves to pray, read, and study this program, seeking direction from God as to the best way to apply it. We will pray that God will raise workers to lead this project in Brazil.

While praising God for this wonderful tool that He is giving us in our own language, I was holding the project in my hands, and the Spirit gave me a rhema from Luke 2:25-38: As Anna, the aged prophetess saw baby Jesus in the temple, she knew He was her salvation. I can see that this young seed can also be used of God to bring the Savior to our children! The day this happened, we discussed it the whole afternoon. I can hardly describe our joy. I think it is similar to the joy of Christians when they received for the first time the Bible in their own language. Now that we have something in our own language, there are no

more excuses and the responsibility is great, I know. Also, many are our weaknesses, and as Peter we stand perplexed, but Jesus looked well into his eyes and said: "If you love Me, feed My lambs." Amen. Our Master looks at us here at Imago Dei in a different way and sees beyond our limitations and difficulties.

May God continue to bless Principia's ministry even more and your lives and your families. Pray, watch, and keep your hearts clean, because you are an important piece in God's strategic plan for Brazil.

In Christ,

Rubens and Daniella Cartaxo

Directors

Simone's parents, Yoshiaki and Tamie Hara, will soon establish a structured paraschool, using our *Feed My Lambs Program*, for the street children around their business in São Paulo, Brazil, whom they feed and minister to every afternoon. Thank you, Simone, for your gift of languages on behalf of the many hopeless and hurting Brazilian children! We look forward to the day that *Feed My Lambs* can bless the young Paulistas with beauty, truth, and moral goodness.

Testimonies from Imago Dei School

Principia held a five-day Teachers Training Program at Imago Dei in July, 2002. Since that time, the leaders have been applying biblical principles of Christian education to their mission. In one year, this primary school has made an impact in the lives of its students, families and community. Here are several testimonies:

- The school established a time of honoring God and country in their weekly schedule. Wearing the colors of the Brazilian flag, the children pledge allegiance to their flag, sing their national anthem, and sow a word of love and national responsibility in prayers directed at current events. They even prayed that other Brazilian children would be able to have this experience in school. On Independence Day, September 7th, Brazil's President and Minister of Education signed a decree that made saluting the flag and singing the national anthem mandatory in all schools. This brought joy to the children, for they believe God heard and honored their prayers.

- After studying the history of their city, Imago Dei took their third grade on a field trip to the city's Railroad Museum. The railroad was built by the British in the early 20th century to carry sugar from the interior to the Atlantic coast. It was closed in the latter part of the 20th century after the Americans, who had built an army air station during WWII, left Parnamirim. The museum director gave the students one of the large railroad spikes, which they brought back to the classroom. Each day thereafter, the children held the spike and prayed that God would reopen the railroad and restore economic prosperity to their city. They wrote a letter of request for such a proposal to their mayor and were invited to visit City Hall. After three months, the needs of their municipality were studied and to the great joy of this class, the concept of restoring the railroad was publicly announced! Recently, a state government official visited the classroom and was moved to tears to see the railroad spike in front of the room and know of the students' daily prayers. One of the eight-year-old students later reflected, "This is the greatest testimony I've heard in all my life!" It will be exciting to see what the Lord does in this city through the prayers and faith of these children!

You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others. - 2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)