

## Sent to Send: Impacting the World Through South Brazil

“And you became imitators of us and of the LORD, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.” – 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

My name is Benjamin Candee and I repented and trusted in Christ back in 2001. I am a missionary with ABWE (Association of Baptists for World



Evangelism) to the region of South Brazil, specifically to the State of Rio Grande do Sul. I have a passion for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. Paul describes this passion and it's results very succinctly in 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8. He modeled for them what a gospel witness looks like and tells us how those who receive a true gospel witness respond. It is my desire to see the people in South Brazil imitate the Thessalonians and become a witness in Rio Grande do Sul, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Missions have been on my mind from almost the instant that I repented. To prepare for the missions field I went to The Masters Seminary in 2004 after I graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Civil Engineering. Following my graduation from seminary in 2007 I took a survey trip to Germany where I visited three different missionary teams. In 2010 I went to Uganda on another survey trip to help with a pastors conference



**ABWE Germany Team 2015**



and visit a missions team.

In the summer of 2015 summer the LORD brought me to ABWE and I was appointed as a missionary with an open destination; that is having no specific region or destination. I knew that I was called to go but I did not know where I was supposed to go. I left the candidate seminar with five major countries that I was speaking

with, Tanzania, Canada, United States, Germany, and Brazil. I began to converse through skype, e-mail and phone conversations with team leaders in each country about the possibility of me joining the team. During these conversations it became apparent that Germany and Brazil were the two best fits. It was a specific answer to months of prayer. The next step was to take a survey trip to each country.

**Evangelism at a local shoe factory, Brazil 2015**



I visited the Germany ABWE team in October 2015 to get to know the team and see the different ministry possibilities there. There is a rich theological history of the protestant reformation in Germany. Current theological history consists of liberal/secular thought in the church and dead or dying churches. The ABWE team in Germany is diligently working in the midst of those conditions to share the gospel and revitalize dying churches. I had a great time connecting with the team and forming

relationships with Germans. The German team thought that I such a great fit they wanted to "add me to the soup."

There were a few issues that came up during the trip which gave me pause from committing on the spot. I left Germany thinking that it is a great place to be missionary and a place that I could call home.

**Church in Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil 2015**



The Brazil survey trip in November/December 2015 almost didn't happen as I received my visa to enter the country the day before I was scheduled to leave. When I first landed in Sao Palo and was waiting for my connecting flight I had a panic attack wondering "What I am doing in Brazil?" Thankfully that did not last very long and things settled down. I was able to enjoy my time in the state of Rio Grande Do Sul. I was able to preach a couple of times with a translator in Santa Cruz do Sul and Invoti.

I also enjoyed the time with the missions team and found that I was able to connect in a very similar way to the team in Germany. It was encouraging to see the gospel begin to impact the life of some individuals in South Brazil. I was able to share the gospel with some men at a game night with the church planters from Sao Leopoldo and now one of the guys, who is not a Christian and was opposed to the gospel, is now coming with his wife to the church plant and hearing the gospel each week.

The need for the gospel is great in South Brazil. It has been called "The Graveyard for Missionaries in Brazil" and has 20 likeminded churches in the entire state of Rio Grande do Sul. Rio Grande do Sul counts some of it's major religions as Catholic, Charismatic, Unitarian, and Spiritism. The gospel witness has been so few that there are only about 20 like-minded churches in the entire state the size of Arizona with a little less than double the population.

In South Brazil I will be working with national churches to train leaders and help them plant churches. The team in South Brazil has encouraged me to not choose a specific destination but to come down and during language school to spend more time with the different areas to see which location would be the best fit. No matter where I end up I will be sharing the gospel, discipling people, helping train national leaders, and working with national churches to help plant other churches. There are two locations that the missions team thinks I would be a good fit in. The first location is in Santa Cruz. The church in Santa Cruz is working at planting 52 churches in the two counties that surround

Church Plant in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil 2015



Fresh Water Idol in Porto Alegre, Brazil 2015



the city. They have planted three churches so far and are asking for assistance from ABWE in training leadership for the next 49 church plants. The second location is in Invoti. Invoti is preparing to be a training center and mother church for future church plants.

After I left South Brazil I talked with my elders and they agreed to be my sending church to South Brazil. I received an invitation to join the ABWE team in South Brazil. I am so excited to be heading back to South



Brazil to help with church planting and leadership training. I have a list of goals both personally and ministry centered. These goals are to evangelize, disciple, train church national church leaders, help plant national churches, encourage local and foreign missions work, and equip future missionaries. I also have a list of personal resolutions that I will strive to keep towards any church or family which supports me in South Brazil, please see the attached documents with my personal resolutions towards any church and family.

While reading the New Testament I can't help but see a two way relationship that missionaries have with the churches. Paul is continually receiving and sending letters to churches that he has helped plant, praying for those churches and individuals, and prioritizing his time to reconnect with these churches in

person. I desire to imitate Paul in his communication, prayer, and relationships. The resolutions that I have towards the churches and families are my attempt fulfill these vital and necessary parts of missions.

Yours Truly,  
Benjamin Candee

P.S. If you want other updates please follow my blog at [benjamincandee.wordpress.com](http://benjamincandee.wordpress.com)