



# **Report of activities of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil (IEAB) - 2007**

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### Companionship between the IEAB and the Anglican Church of Canada

The funds originating from the Cooperation Agreement between the Churches of Brazil and Canada are specifically intended to support projects associated with the national organization of women, youth, communications (Estandarte Cristão journal), mission and evangelization, and ecumenism.

This is a report of the main activities carried out in 2007 in various parts of the Province of Brazil, related to the support received through the Church of Canada. The articles were taken from our provincial journal.

### Episcopal Church Women of Brazil (Umeab)

#### Umeab group of Ariquemes has a special moment

A special moment of joy and union was the talk given by Noeli dos Santos on the theme "issue of gender." This meeting gave women a new sense of how to work in the parish and build a new society. Some 30 women participated in the event and, at the end, they elected a new leader.

Arts and crafts courses and continued support for the parish and missions are planned, especially for children.



#### II Binational Meeting of Women: Brazilian and Uruguayan women build a bridge to a better world

Some 70 Brazilian and Uruguayan women met in Montevideo, from November 16 to 18, at the II Binational Meeting of Women. The Meeting worked through the following questions:

- 1 - What difficulties are currently being faced by the women's group?
- 2 - Which persons or experiences have motivated us to continue?
- 3 - What gain, gratification, satisfaction, and encouragement do we find today as women in the church?
- 4 - What concrete actions can we carry out to strengthen us as diocesan women and companions?

Conclusion: we must have commitment: many women are in the church today, but they are not part of the church.

We must have prayer, union, publicity of what we are doing - even if our work is small. We must bear witness so that others can take heart.

Sandra Quevedos Duarte, Gabriela, Marta and Patrícia were responsible for the Meeting on the other side of the river, in Uruguay. On this side, Brazilians Eunice Ramos, president of the national Umeab and directors Janira, Mary Helena, Marinês and Vilna. The Dioceses of Uruguay and Southwest Brazil held the first two Meetings. The next meeting will also involve Brazil's Diocese of Pelotas and, who knows, the Meridional Diocese, whose representative, Siloé, was in Montevideo. This is the expectation of the president Eunice Ramos. Like those who live on the banks of the river, the women are sure of one thing: "It is worthwhile to take a risk and build the world we want."



## Interdiocesan Meeting of UMEAB Leaders

### Curitiba - 30 women – August 2007 – Strategic Planning

#### Women want help to grow in parishes

An enthusiastic meeting, promoted by the Anglican Diocese of Curitiba (DAC), was held at the Cathedral of Saint James (Curitiba) on August 28, 2007.

National president Eunice Ramos and president of the Umeab of the Anglican Diocese of São Paulo, Christina Winnischofer attended as special guests, the meeting was also attended by the diocesan representative Selma Rosa and representatives of almost all the parishes of the DAC.

Emphasized goals were to organize women's groups at parishes where there are none, prayer groups, pastoral work and ecumenical meetings; bible studies; reinforced communication in the form of a bulletin, journal, cards, folders, letters, and e-mail; promotion of the cultural growth of various groups.

Services were led and attended by clergywomen Carmen Etel Gomes, Magda Guedes, and Maria das Graças Bernardino. Three men also participated: bishop Naudal Gomes, Rev. Canon Odilon Silva and attorney João Carlos Ramos.

Conclusions: Too little engagement, and too much timidity. Many parish priests also need support.



## Order of the Daughters of the King – National Assembly

### Gramado – State of Rio Grande do Sul (RS) - 90 participants from all over Brazil

The 4th Triennial Assembly was held in the beautiful city of Gramado, RS, from September 27 to 30. Over 90 people attended.

The theme was the environment, based on the first verse of Psalm 24: **"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it: the world, and those who live in it."**

The Anglican Diocese of Pelotas, through bishop Renato da Cruz Raatz, developed a study entitled **"Dream of Hope,"** enriched with music and ending with a proposal for **"Living a Week as a Franciscan."**

The **"Agape"** Chapter of the Anglican Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, led by clergywoman Rev. Inamar de Souza, made an instructive and creative Bible study on **"The Kingdom of God."**

The Chapters of the Meridional Diocese held an interesting talk on **"Climate Change"** given by Dr. Cláudio Vinicius de Senna Gastal Júnior, Biologist from **"Unicamp"** University in São Gabriel, using many illustrations and calling attention to our responsibility to future generations. After the talk, five workshops were held in which the participants explored living in an ecologically correct way.

The Triennial Assembly was also an opportunity to deal with the Order's administrative matters. In addition to making minor changes in its Bylaws, the Order chose its



national coordinators. For the next three years, the national coordinators will be from the Anglican Diocese of Pelotas. Bishop Renato da Cruz Raatz was elected national chaplain of the Order.

On Sunday, the primate Bishop Maurício de Andrade and provincial secretary Rev. Francisco de Assis Silva were present.



## Anglican Youth Community of Brazil (UJAB)

### **Project “Worship and Culture” – Goiânia – 50 young people – Liturgy workshop with pop music and a reflection on the Bible and theology**

#### **Project “Worship and Culture” emphasizes work of Renato Russo**

The second edition of this Project took place at Saint Philip’s Parish in Goiânia, State of Goiás (GO), on the night of December 16.

Rev. Elias Vergara, parish priest, welcomed all with a contemporary greeting from these poets (of popular music) who call on us to think about our faith and commitment and emphasized the importance of these events as a part of the parish’s missionary planning.

The parish youth, supported by their priest in charge, is developing a project that aims to discuss the work of a popular singer/composer in light of the Gospel message. Local bands are invited to sing songs by the chosen composer and talk about the message the music has for the life of the members of the band.

For the first session, the chosen composer was Raul Seixas. This time songs by Renato Russo were sung.

The parish youth brought friends, adults brought neighbors, and a few moderators in the region approached each other to see what was going on in the parish.

The parish youth band (Eliseu, Leonardo, and Gustavo) played a few songs by Renato Russo that animated the audience, and they repeated a certain phrases by the singer that stood out: “Discipline is liberty”; “We have to love people like there was no tomorrow.”

This second edition was attended by the diocesan bishop on his pastoral visit for Advent. Bishop Maurício de Andrade talked about the importance of the poetic and prophetic message in pop music.



## Youth Training Meeting in the Southwest Diocese

### Regional Youth Meetings – Wake up sleepyhead!

With the theme “Wake Up Sleepyhead” the Youth Leader Group of the Southwest Diocese has been trying to animate young people so they can participate and take on leadership roles in their communities, in the Church, and in society.

Putting the project into practice... after participating in two leadership training sessions in June and July, youth from various regions of the diocese began to organize meetings. Two of the four planned meetings have already been held.

An enjoyable Bible-related field day was held at which participants learned a bit more about the life of Jesus and the Bible in addition to discovering artistic talents through plays of Bible passages, songs, and poetry.

First, in Erechim, on September 29 and 30, some 35 young people from the Northern Region attended.

Second, in Santana do Livramento, on October 13 and 14, around 29 young people attended.

### Youth Month Activities

Since the theme established by the IEAB for 2008 is “Welcoming Others” – the working groups for Christian Education, National Youth Coordinators, and Mission working group prepared a workbook for all parishes. This material will be used to develop this theme with and for young people.

### Youth Leadership Training in Curitiba involving the dioceses from the South of Brazil

The Anglican Diocese of Curitiba in partnership with the National Integration Committee of the Anglican Youth Community of Brazil (CIN/UJAB) held a Youth Leadership Training session to encourage and strengthen their work with youth. The meeting was held on July 20-22 in Curitiba, State of Paraná (PR), and attended by youth from the Diocese of Curitiba, national youth coordinators, and representatives from the Dioceses of Pelotas, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Maria, Porto Alegre and Curitiba.

Assisted by Rev. Dessordi Leite, the group examined the importance of Spirituality, Training, and Action in the life of a leader engaged in building the Kingdom of God on earth. The need to encourage youth training in relation to the Bible, theology, socioeconomics, artistic endeavors, and Anglican church life and to strengthen fraternal relationships was stressed.

The youth were also enthusiastic about mission work.

The CIN/UJAB held a meeting to discuss Anglican Youth Month (March 2008) whose theme will call young people to become involved in the mission of the Church, regional interdiocesan meetings, renovation of the Web site of the CIN-UJAB, and creation of a Blog for Anglican youth.





The youth representing the UJAB in Rio de Janeiro (RJ) presented an evangelization and mission project being carried out by the UJAB and the Committee for Evangelization and Mission of the Diocese of RJ entitled: "A Church For You." The project's Web site: [www.igrejacomasuacara.com.br](http://www.igrejacomasuacara.com.br) contains information about the IEAB, messages and testimonials in youthful and innovative language.

On Sunday morning the group held a celebration with the Mission of Saint Peter the Apostle and was enthusiastically received.



## The *Estandarte Cristão* Journal

This year brought huge transformations for our Provincial Journal.

Six editions of the journal were completed, and the Communication Working Group formulated a new layout and significantly improved the quality of our journal. We are in the middle of a campaign for new subscriptions so that in the middle term the journal will become self-sustainable.



## Pastoral Work with Native Peoples

Support for a sustainable vegetable extraction project in the State of Mato Grosso (MT) with the assistance of Wilson Pereira, who works to support native peoples. The native communities of Kayaby and Munducuru learned methods for environmental protection and family agriculture and subsistence activities.

With the support of governmental organizations, the creation and registration of an native women's association was worked on.





Support and assistance was also provided to the Brazil Nut Oil Plant and Cooperative together with the native communities in Juara, MT.

## Evangelism and Mission

In 2006, the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil created new missions in various parts of the country, attesting to the Church's growth.

### Diocese of Brasília holds seminar on Stewardship

How have we responded to God's love and care toward us? This was the theme of the Diocesan Seminar on Mission and Stewardship, held at the Cathedral of the Resurrection on May 25 and 26. The Seminar was attended by clergy and laypeople and notably by Rev. Rodrigo Espiúca, who came from the Southwest Diocese in the State of Rio Grande do Sul (RS) especially for this event.

The seminar was directed by Daniel Hoffman, lay minister and Companionship Committee member from Christ Church Cathedral, in Indianapolis.

During these two days, participants examined the conception and objective of the mission and made proposals for action, especially in terms of financial assistance, Anglican identity, and evangelization.

Daniel Hoffman reminded everyone that we are all responsible for the development and sustainability of our Christian communities.



### Mission and Stewardship Events

This important theme has set the tone for the ministerial development events promoted by the Center for Anglican Education (CEA) this year.

The first event took place on July 20 - 22 in Santa Maria, RS, and was attended by 22 clergy and laypeople. Valuable assistance was provided by Rev. Jerry Andrei (Meridional Diocese) and Darcimar Silva (Diocese of Rio de Janeiro).

The second event took place two weeks later (August 3 - 5) in São Paulo and brought together representatives from the Dioceses of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Curitiba. A group from the Saint Paul's Cathedral in São Paulo also shared their evangelization and growth experiences. The Diocese of Rio showed its missionary experience in a video entitled "Church in the Street"

The next meeting will be held in Brasília on October 12 - 14 and will be attended by representatives of the Dioceses of Recife, Brasília and Amazônia, in addition to the missionary districts. The theme will be the same: how are we doing with regard to evangelization and mission work? What do we have to share and how can we mobilize ourselves to be more faithful to Jesus' command?

## Mission Meeting studies talents to build the Kingdom of God

More than 30 people from various parishes participated in the 2nd Meeting of Missions of the Diocese of Curitiba from October 12-14 in Cascavel. Bishop Naudal Gomes opened the meeting on Friday afternoon after Rev. Lauri Wollmann, parish priest at Christ the King parish in Palotina, gave a talk on stewardship and mission, the theme of the meeting.

Key words chosen as a focus for the communities are: service, solidarity, hope, perseverance, love and work, talents that Christians should use to serve God's kingdom.

On Saturday, the group visited an organization that assists addicts directed by religious leaders, especially the Anglican Church. The visitors were able to talk with a few patients in see the practical results of the treatment.

## Provincial Campaign for Mission - June - in all parishes of the Province

**June – IEAB Mission Month**

**Worship is also commitment to the Church you love and to the God you serve!**



In June, the IEAB commemorates the anniversary of its foundation. During that month, we remember the first missionaries who founded the IEAB. So in June the Permanent Campaign for Church Support whose theme for 2007 was:

**“Worship – Ministry - Mission:**

**Dimensions of the Life of the Church”**

As a symbol of the commitment to the Church's mission, the Campaign culminates in a special collection on the last Sunday, which will go into the IEAB's Mission Fund.

## Missionary District of the West (DMO): a frontier to be effectively supported

### A word from the Provincial Secretary

My trip to the DMO was a magnificent experience.

It was my first contact with this part of Brazil. The State of Rondônia – the part I visited – has all the typical contradictions of our rich country.

Natural beauty, with its rivers and inlets surrounded by a forest encroached on more and more each day.

An unequal society in which the few who are rich exploit nature, and the majority does not have access to basic public services like education and health. There, violence against children and young people is much higher than other parts of Brazil. Years and years of pure political control by the self-serving elite have given rise to an enormous desire to transform society among excluded sectors. There are few voices defending the disenfranchised. One of these voices is the Church.

Our Church in Rondônia and in Mato Grosso is small, but it has conquered great respect. Two parishes and two missions made up mostly of working class people who have found in faith a





reason to struggle for a dignified life. I had the opportunity to visit the homes of a few parishioners and see how simply they live, some lacking the bare necessities for a dignified life. The pastoral leaders in the region face enormous difficulties. The first is the distance. A radius of 202 km; it is 1,330 Km from Rio Branco to Campo Verde, MT. The distance from the nearest airports to the cities in which the two main parishes are located is 202 Km for Ariquemes and 128 Km for Campo Verde. Still, in the midst of so many limits, this part of the Church is showing signs of vitality. It is growing and gaining visibility, notably in the government. I could see this especially in Ariquemes (my next visit will be to Campo Verde).



hymnals and bibles to the region demonstrate that the Church's mission is being done with a sense of solidarity.

Ground needs to be made on two fronts: working with landless peasants and child education.

The Church has another huge challenge: religious assistance absolutely lacking among the region's miners. The IEAB's presence in the Central West shows it is now definitively a national Church. If in the past the Church faced the challenge of expanding to frontiers beyond the South, now the march is westward. The creation of the DMO was the first step, but many others need to be taken so that this advancement can be made complete.

Gestures like that of the Saint John's Parish in the Diocese of São Paulo, by sending books of common prayer,

## Ecumenism

### Anglican Church signs agreement for mutual recognition of Baptism

Anglicans, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Presbyterians, and Reformed Christians signed a Declaration of Mutual Recognition of Baptism, this being the primary act of the commemorations for the 25th anniversary of the National Council of Christian Churches (Conic) in São Paulo, together with the 1st Ecumenical Missionary Conference. Some 40 Anglicans participated in the commemorations, including the primate Maurício Andrade and other bishops, who were in São





Paulo for the meetings of the House of Bishops and the Committee for Theological Education.

In addition to the Primate, Bishop Filadelfo Oliveira of the Diocese of Recife and Rev, Flávio Irala of the Diocese of Curitiba, and singer Xico Esrael were the Anglicans who actively participated in the service.

The Litany for the Presence of Christ was directed by the former Secretary of the Conic, Pastor Ervino Schmidt and by Father Gasbrielle Cipriani. The Vocal Group of the Benedictine Monks were special participants. The meeting was also marked by the presence of Rabbi Henri Sobel, who was greeted by many.

