

# BRAZIL



## LOCATION

Aracatuba, Brazil

## LOCAL PARTNERS

Giba & Helen Filsinger

## DATES

July 23 – August 3

## ESTIMATED COST

\$2,500

## TEAM LEADERS

Randy & Lisa Sperry

## WHY THERE?

Giba and Helen Filsinger have a long-standing relationship with VBC's Plano campus and are involved in many ministries in Aracatuba, Brazil. Some key aspects are teaching at the Seminário Bíblico de Evangelização, training teachers and teaching in the public schools (using a 10-lesson Mailbox Club), and caring for a small church, called Maranata Bible Church.

We have an opportunity to serve alongside them -- both to encourage and be encouraged. We will bring our skills, gifts, and passion to help the Filsingers in various ways. We also will see how God is at work in Brazilian hearts and communities.

## WHAT WILL WE DO?

There are a variety of possibilities, such as:

- Helping with a Day Camp (children, youth), an English camp for teens and adults.
- Giving testimonies in church and elsewhere.
- Be part of a women's conference and/or men's breakfast, sharing devotionals and testimonies.
- Help with an event for seniors, could include crafts, hymn singing, etc.
- Helping with teaching the Bible in public schools.
- Leading a chapel service at the seminary for beginning classes.

## WHO SHOULD COME?

A group size of 5-15, anyone with an open heart to serve and encourage our missionaries. No Portuguese required, with Giba and Helen translating.

People with all types of skills are helpful. Do you enjoy music, sports, crafts, theatre (mime), or teaching English? Maybe you have visited the Holy Land and could present a slide show? Perhaps you have a testimony about freedom from drugs, alcohol, prison, or an ungodly lifestyle? Or, maybe you are just passionate in sharing the gospel and the love of Jesus with others - men, women or children.

## TRAVEL

A flight from Chicago to Sao Paulo is typically 13-14 hours. From there to Aracatuba requires either eight hours of ground transportation or a domestic flight to Rio Preto, followed by two final hours of ground travel.

## LODGING

Depending on group size, but most likely at the seminary or camp for a group of 12 or fewer. A larger group will also utilize accommodations in nearby homes (2-3 blocks away at the most).

## GENERAL INFO

Wonderful climate! Cool and little rain, June through August.

The Brazilian people in the area often have religious engagement, but lacking sound theology. The spiritual landscape includes Catholicism, prosperity gospel, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Plus, there are Japanese communities, so there are some transcendental beliefs, too.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Security

- Aracatuba area where we will be ministering is a safe neighborhood.

### Immunizations required

- In terms of travel vaccinations, the CDC recommends being up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.
- For Brazil specifically, you should also be up to date for Hepatitis A and Typhoid. Medical professionals may also recommend medication to guard against Malaria and Yellow Fever.

### Dress code

- Men – no tie necessary, slacks & non-T shirt when speaking at church or seminary, otherwise casual jeans, shorts, etc.
- Women – skirt for evening church and when speaking at an event, otherwise casual. Shorts no higher than four fingers above your knee.

## PRAYER POINTS

- For the Lord of the Harvest to raise up workers to serve the people of Brazil -- perhaps planting seeds for long-term ministry in the hearts of some.
- For the love of Christ to be evident in our actions and attitudes; and for God to draw the hearts of Brazilians to Himself.
- For God to deepen VBC's relationship with the Filsingers, extending beyond their existing connections with the Plano campus.

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”

**Abraham Kuyper**



**Giba & Helen Filsinger**