

AMAR - Missionary Association supporting children with behaviour problems with the love of Jesus

**'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men'.
(Colossians 3:23)**

In 2009 the Little Disciples programme has been attended by a total of 156 children and teenagers between the ages of six and fifteen years. We are operating in two towns within the State of Amazonas – Itacoatiara and Beruri – as well as in the Amazonas capital city of Manaus.

A total of 85 families, all socially vulnerable, have benefited from the program. In Manaus the project offers children socio-educational activities from 07:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday as well as the opportunity for the children to have three meals each day.

Among the activities provided for the children are: life skills education, complementary education, literacy courses, music lessons (guitar and choir), sports activities, art class, Portuguese spelling, mathematics, and social activities to commemorate Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Children's Day.

In the development of our activities we have the technical assistance of the following professionals:

- 1 Programme coordinator;
- 1 Social worker;
- 1 Educationalist;
- 1 Music teacher;
- 1 Intern Educationalist;
- 1 Technical assistant;
- 1 Cook;
- 2 Physical education teachers;
- 1 Computer teacher;
- 1 Teacher in social and value behaviour.

For the past four years the Little Disciples program at Beruri has been developing socio-educational activities with 39 children between 6 to 15 years enrolled. The project at Beruri is run at the Presbyterian Church under the responsibility of a missionary Luzanira Carvalho. The project here has also a technical team with a schedule of 24 hours per week from Monday to Saturday running during the evenings. Again the activities undertaken include: life skills education, supplementary schooling, guitar lessons, arts and culture and sports activities.

It is also worth mentioning the performance of our partner organisation the 'Programme for Small Disciples in the Amazon' which also runs educational activities, life skills education, sports and supplementary schooling. The project operates at the Presbyterian Church in Itacoatiara with the help of volunteers. It operates Monday to Friday from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

Over the months there has been a tremendous collective effort from the staff volunteers and representatives of institutions (maintainers and others) and we are clear that this has resulted in social – educational development in the cities of Manaus, Itacoatiara and Beruri.

Importantly, the Little Disciples programme has acted directly to implement the development of socio-educational activities, aimed at improving the quality of life of families served by the AMAR organisation and has also been involved in action-based educational intervention.

We ended our activities on 28 November as a result of a notification from the Ministry of Education regarding the flu virus. We will recommence on 1st March 2010, having taken the opportunity to expand and renovate our facilities during the months of December 2009, January and February 2010. We would ask that you please pray for us.

We thank God for the privilege of being servants on this project and instruments to bless so many children. We are also thankful for your faithfulness over the years. It has greatly contributed to the work of the organisation. We are confident that your collaboration has been the guarantee of our success. We hope that this year the Lord will open the windows of Heaven and pour great blessing upon all of you.

Marli Sentalin (Project Director Manaus) *Translated from the Portuguese by Andrea Thomas*



As you can see from the photos above, AMAR reaches many children in Manaus (the Amazon city) with the love of Jesus