



# Brazil Open Team 2017

## Information Packet

**Location:** Salvador, Brazil

**Project Dates:** January 18 – 30, 2017

**Participation Fee:** \$950



*Flight to Salvador is not included in the participation fee*

## Maranatha in Brazil

Maranatha began working in Brazil in 2011 when Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership discovered a need for church buildings. Since 2011, Maranatha has completed hundreds of churches throughout the country as well as a large Education and Evangelism Center in the city of Castanhal. This large structure provides learning space for many students to hear about God.

### Project Overview

Volunteers on this project will be traveling to the Salvador region of northeastern Brazil to build two church buildings as well as paint two additional churches in the local area.

The first church the group will construct is called Vila Dos Coquerios. This church will be a new plant led by two families in the area who have large dreams of growing the congregation. A brand new building to worship in will provide a sense of belonging and permanence that the small group has been yearning for. The second church the volunteers will build is located in a small village called Baito Lisboa and this church is also a new congregation. It is led by a woman and her family who have made the construction of the church possible by donating the property adjacent to her house! Both projects will include the assembly of the metal frame as well as the block work for the walls.

In addition, volunteers will paint two churches that were completed in 201—the Cruzeiro and Recanto congregations. These churches received One-Day Church frames from Maranatha crews, and the church members completed the walls for the structures. However, because funding is often limited for these congregations, they finished the construction by painting the church with cheap paint to save money. According to local Maranatha leaders, they do not look very good, and one of them has a little water damage because of the poor quality paint. So volunteers on this project will repaint these two buildings using a high quality product so that the buildings will be more representative of the overall quality of the structure. Both congregations are in need of chairs. If you are interested in helping provide for this need, a collection will be taken up during the project to see if the volunteers can help answer their prayers.

### Project Schedule

**Wednesday, January 18**  
Arrival in Salvador. Overnight at local hotel.

**Thursday, January 19**  
Travel to project housing, orientation, and partial work day

**Friday, January 20**  
Work day

**Saturday, January 21**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday, January 22 – Friday, January 27**  
Work days

**Saturday, January 28**  
Worship with the local congregations

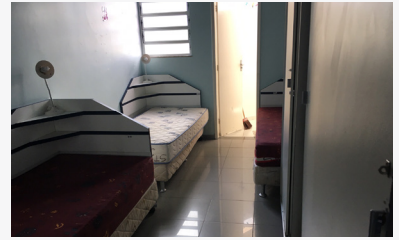
**Sunday, January 29**  
Return to Salvador for local excursion

**Monday, January 30**  
Departure from Salvador

The group will also offer outreach opportunities such as children's ministry programs and a health education program. There might also be the opportunity to offer medical clinics if there are enough medical professionals interested in taking part, and we receive permission from the local government. If you are interested in helping with either of these outreach opportunities, contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

## Accommodations

The group will stay approximately two hours from the city of Salvador at the IAENE University. This is a large Adventist University with more than 3,700 students annually. The majority of the volunteers will stay in the girls' dorm; a few may stay in the boys' dorm. Each room is nicely furnished with four twin beds; however, bedding is not provided, so please bring your own sheets and blankets as well as towels and washcloths. A full packing list will be available in the final packet. All rooms have air-conditioning and several rooms have private bathrooms. The rest share a common bathroom down the hall, but it is well maintained and very nice.



There are two swimming pools on campus. Internet is available, but it is not very fast, so do not expect to do very much on it. There are self-serve laundry services available on campus, or there will be the opportunity for someone to do your laundry for an additional fee. Security is present on the campus. There is a curfew, after which dogs patrol the campus, so please be aware of this and do not walk around campus after curfew.

The group will meet for worship in the girls' dorm meeting hall, and the group will eat meals at the campus cafeteria. The volunteers will travel by private bus to the various work sites each day.

## Excursion

At the end of the project, volunteers will return to Salvador for a final day of relaxation before returning home the next day. The group will have a tour of the colonial district and then spend time at a local beach or relax at the hotel pool. The hotel will provide lunch and dinner that day.



## Expenses

The participation fee covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project sites, local excursion activities, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all registration forms and first deposit by October 1st in order to finalize housing and transportation contracts. The final funds and forms must be submitted by December 12. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations please either have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

## Estimate of Additional Costs

**Flight to Salvador** \$1,000 - 1,300

**Passport** \$130 or \$110 for renewal

**Visa** \$165 (US) \$130 (Canadian)

**Visa Processing Fees** \$70-100

## Leadership

### **Merrill Zachary (Zack) | Project Coordinator**

Merrill, who goes by Zack, is a Maranatha regular. Most recently, his Maranatha travels have taken him to Zimbabwe, Curacao, Ecuador, and Panama. Zack is a retired farmer from Manitoba, Canada, and his positive attitude, warm heart, and extensive experience always promise a memorable mission experience. Zack will oversee all aspects of the trip as project coordinator.



### **Donnajeane Crawford (DJ) | Assistant Project Coordinator**

Donnajeane, who goes by DJ, is a Maranatha regular. She has participated on and led projects internationally and here in the United States. Most recently she led Maranatha volunteer projects at the Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory in Washington. Her detailed personality and love for people have earned her a following amongst Maranatha volunteers. She will be assisting Zack with the project leadership.

### **George Alder | Construction Superintendent**

George Alder joins the group from Palmer, Alaska. He is a Maranatha veteran volunteer who has participated on and led many projects. When not on a Maranatha project, George enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren. George will bring his expertise in construction as the construction superintendent. His wife Becky will also be on the project.

### **Jim Kincaid | Spiritual Coordinator**

Jim Kincaid will be leading the spiritual focus on this volunteer group as the spiritual coordinator. Jim and his wife Linda, who will also be on the project, have dedicated 38 years of their lives to missionary service in Alaska. They have served as missionaries to the Eskimo and Athabaskan people, as church pastors, and as church administrators. They currently operate a small air-charter service in northwest Alaska. Jim and Linda have joined several Maranatha projects, and it is becoming a habit in their lives.

### **Dolores Morgan | Head Cook**

Dolores has lived all over the world with her husband, who is a naval officer. When not serving as head cook on Maranatha projects, she and her husband Vernon live in Walla Walla, Washington. On Maranatha trips, she is known for her delicious meals and desserts; no one goes hungry on her trips!

### **Jolene Juhl | Children's Ministry Coordinator**

Jolene and her husband Ivan live in Minnesota where they are farmers. She is no stranger to Maranatha projects and has had experience leading Vacation Bible School programs in countries like India, Curacao, and Panama. She definitely has love for young people and has the ability to peak the interest in the children and make it fun for all who attend.

## About Brazil

From the wildlife-rich Amazon basin to the bustling city of Sao Paulo, Brazil is a land of diversity. The culture of its people burst from the drums of the Samba and the colorful costumes that adorn the Carnival dancers. However, it also has a dark history with stories of slavery and exploitation.

Three primary indigenous tribes originally inhabited Brazil. When the Portuguese settlers sailed to its shores in 1531, the simple life of the nomadic Indians changed. The sailors had come looking for spices, ivory, and diamonds, and they brought with them diseases, war, and slavery as they forced the Indians to work alongside African slaves on sugar plantations. The Portuguese settlers also brought something else with them: Catholicism. Jesuit missions sprang up in small villages as the priests tried to convert the local Indians, many times through force. This effort ended with a mixture of Catholicism, animism, and African cults, as well as many lives lost on both sides.

In the early 1800's, as Portugal was under invasion from Napoleon, Dom Joao VI, Portuguese prince and regent, fled with his family for the Brazilian colonies. This New World colony became the first and only colony to have a European monarch ruling on its soil. When Dom Joao returned to Europe, his son Dom Pedro I took over rule and declared independence from Portugal, naming himself Emperor of Brazil. Government leadership

passed to powerful, feuding landowners and eventually to dictators until 1989, when Brazil held its first democratic election.

Throughout its history, Brazil has remained an economic asset and a leading exporter of sugar, coffee beans, and rubber.

Unfortunately, the heavy demand for rubber during the late 1800's caused expansive deforestation in the Amazon basin. While the Amazonia region is still home to more than 300 species of mammals and 2,000 species of fish, hundreds of Brazil's animal species are endangered, and major ecosystems are threatened due to the destruction of natural environments.

Brazil's indigenous roots mixed with European culture and African influences, leaving a unique mark on Brazilian lifestyle. The deep chasm between rich and poor became even more prominent, and the proximity between the two grew closer and closer. In the cities the rich live comfortably in colonial style apartments while the poor live in favelas, makeshift slum communities lorded over by gangs and drug runners. However, no matter the social status, all Brazilians share two common loves: football (soccer) and music. One visit to Rio de Janeiro will quickly reveal their enthusiasm for sports teams and enjoyment of music and dance.

Brazil remains a land of diversity and contrasts. The colonial baroque buildings of Salvador are contrasted against the modernity of Brasilia, and the unexplored Amazon tributaries are a sharp difference from the populous coast. These contrasts define Brazilian culture and will always remain a part its people.



## Facts and Figures

**Capital:**  
Brasilia

**Population:**  
204.2 million

**Language:**  
Portuguese

**Climate:**  
Mostly tropical; temperate in the south.

**Religion:**  
65% Catholic, 22% Protestant

**Currency:**  
Brazilian Real

## Travel Information

### Flights

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Salvador (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Maranatha representatives will meet volunteers at the airport.

Most flight itineraries require a transfer to a domestic flight in Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo. If possible, use an international airline that is a partner with the domestic airline you choose. If you are able to do so, try to check your bags all the way through to Salvador to avoid having to transfer with your bags in Rio or Sao Paulo.

Please be aware that English is not widely spoken in Brazil, and translation can be a problem when making this transfer. Please allow for plenty of time to make the transition since it can take time to walk to the correct area of the airport.

**Arrival** | Plan to arrive in Salvador, Brazil (airport code SSA) in the afternoon or evening of Wednesday, January 18. This will most likely require that you leave your home airport on January 17.

**Departure** | Plan to depart from Salvador, Brazil (SSA) on Monday, January 30. Afternoon or evening departures are recommended. The last provided meal will be lunch on the 30th.



## Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Interested in additional travel in Brazil? Brazil has many beautiful travel destinations including Iguazu Falls and Rio de Janeiro. Maranatha is not coordinating an optional excursion at the end of this project. So please plan to make your own hotel and transportation arrangements for any additional days outside the Maranatha project dates.

However, knowing that many volunteers want to extend their travel, Maranatha is pursuing a group rate, three-day excursion, with an Adventist travel agent in Brazil. If you are interested in this option, you would register and pay directly with the travel agency. If these arrangements come through, more information would be sent to registered volunteers via email.

For now, if you are interested in connecting with other volunteers who may be traveling before or after the project, you can join a Facebook group set up for this purpose at [www.facebook.com/groups/BrazilOTExcursion](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BrazilOTExcursion)

## Travel Resources

**Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at [edpenha@ciazumano.com](mailto:edpenha@ciazumano.com)

**Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at [nathan@butlertravel.com](mailto:nathan@butlertravel.com) or with Ellen at [ellen@butlertravel.com](mailto:ellen@butlertravel.com).

**Kayak:** [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com)

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

## Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months after the date of intended return (August 1, 2017). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at [www.passport.gc.ca](http://www.passport.gc.ca). It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

In addition to a passport, travelers must also have a valid tourist visa for the country of Brazil before traveling. A document with complete visa requirements, a copy of the visa application, and tips for filling everything out will be sent to you with your confirmation. It is very important that you state that you are coming as a tourist and you do not mention that you are there to work or conduct missionary activities.

Ideally, you should have your visa three to six weeks prior to your departure date. The Brazilian government requires that you apply with the consulate or embassy in your regional jurisdiction. You can either apply in person or use an online visa service. We recommend that you make this appointment immediately. Citizens of other countries, please consult the Brazilian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

There has been talk of some of the requirements easing up after the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, but as of now, these requirements still stand.

## Health & Safety

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Center of Disease Control (CDC) also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A and typhoid. Malaria and yellow fever are present in the country; however, transmission is not necessarily recommended or required for the Salvador region. However, if you are traveling on your own before or after the project, you might consider getting those vaccines and medications.

Maranatha suggests that you schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Brazil and the ways to minimize them. More information about mosquitos and food and water will be available in the final information packet.

## How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. All volunteers must be registered and confirmed by October 1, 2016.

If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do our best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable, and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at [Maranatha.org](http://Maranatha.org) or over the phone.

## Contact Information

**Phone:** (916) 774-7700

**Fax:** (916) 774-7701

**Email:** [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org)

**Website:** [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org)

**Mailing Address:**

Maranatha Volunteers International  
990 Reserve Drive  
Suite 100  
Roseville, CA 95678

**Canadian Payments Only:**

Maranatha Volunteers International  
Association  
c/o V06494C  
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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