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## FINDING LOVE AND PURPOSE

**RIAN GREW UP** in a broken family in São Paulo, Brazil. His parents' separation deeply affected him, generating anger and resentment, feelings that were difficult for him to deal with.

When Rian was 11 years old, he began attending the Vale Ouro ("Worth Gold") Project, run by ACTION field worker, Samuel Condori. Soccer was the key to connecting with Rian, where he found support to overcome his problems. Even though Vale Ouro was a special place where Rian felt welcomed and loved, life was difficult and he eventually drifted away, getting involved in things he should not do.

One day, while walking down the street, Rian ran into Samuel, who encouraged him to return to the Project, so he did. Samuel then invited Rian to assist in broadcasting their Web Rádio Vale Ouro, seeing potential in Rian to become a broadcaster. Rian flourished under Samuel's mentoring.

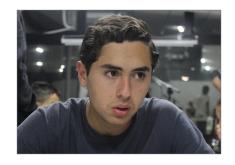
In March 2021, Rian accepted Jesus as his savior and

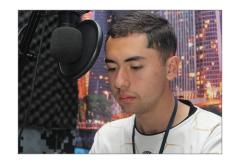
was discipled at Vale Ouro with other boys who quickly became his brothers and companions. A few months later he was baptized and he continued to grow in faith and leadership. Today, 19-year-old Rian is a volunteer in the Project, responsible for Web Rádio Vale Ouro. He is also being considered as a future ACTION Brazil missionary. He testifies, "The Vale Ouro Project was fundamental in showing me the true meaning of Jesus' love and how I can share it with the world."

Rian's story is a powerful example of how ACTION field workers are having a life changing impact on vulnerable children and youth around the world and drawing them to Jesus Christ.

Would you consider giving a donation to ACTION's Children in Crisis Fund to assist men and women like Samuel Condori in this worthwhile endeavor? Visit us at <a href="https://www.actioninternational.org/project/ACTION-Children-in-Crisis">www.actioninternational.org/project/ACTION-Children-in-Crisis</a>







## Protecting the Vulnerable

WHEN I READ INSPIRING testimonies like that of Rian from Brazil, seeing how God is using ACTION to wonderfully touch the lives of so many young people and families, I get excited. ACTION is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, a ministry that began in the Philippines in 1975, reaching out to the poor and vulnerable living on the streets, in squatter areas and prisons.

Today, ACTION has some 400 full time workers in 40 countries around the world, continuing to serve the needs of the poor and vulnerable through evangelism, discipleship and wholistic programs in partnership with local churches to share the love and Gospel of God to those who need it.

An important aspect of effectively serving the poor and vulnerable is providing a safe and comfortable environment for them. In January of this year, I was appointed as the International Safeguarding Coordinator for ACTION. My responsibility is to encourage and assist all our fields in creating and maintaining effective safeguarding policies, ensuring procedures are in place to protect both those being served and those doing the serving in all ministry programs. This creates an environment of trust with the local community and

government, demonstrating our commitment to safeguard every person. Rian, and many like him, want to be sure that the program they participate in and those who work with them are trustworthy and show genuine love and care for their well-being. ACTION is committed to making this happen everywhere we serve. It is an ongoing process that takes work and dedication to ensure we have a safe place to minister and that, in turn, will have a positive influence on everyone involved, for the glory of God.

Do you want to be part of ACTION's ministry with vulnerable young people. Contact us at: <a href="mailto:info@actionintl.org">info@actionintl.org</a>.

Scott Gillespie is ACTION's International Safeguarding Coordinator and serves on the Children in Crisis Advocacy Task Force







## **Action International Ministries**

**USA:** PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 USA **Canada:** 3015A 21st St. NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1 Canada

Registered Charity: 1058661

425-775-4800 403-204-1421