

# Transformation IN BRASIL

**HOW DO YOU** spell Brazil? In English, it's spelled with a "z," but in Portuguese it's spelled with an "s." And speaking of the letter "s," on a compass "s" means south, and the following story is from southern Brasil, where the Holy Spirit recently transformed some young hearts.

In 2003 missionaries Marco and Claudia Van De Merwe began pursuing a vision that finally came to fruition just this past October. They conducted a camp for 80 children and adolescents. The first two days of hard rain didn't intimidate either the missionaries or the kids. And guess what? No one missed their mobile phone!

The theme of the camp was the life of Joseph. Through the study of God's Word, as well as through the games and group dynamics, the children learned how God called Joseph and prepared him to be a great leader.

In the midst of the contrary circumstances in his life, Joseph remained brave. This youth had unimaginable dreams and learned to trust God in adverse situations. He worked hard, acting with integrity, patience, and humility, and he had a forgiving heart.

On the last day of the camp, time was set aside to seek forgiveness and experience foot washing. Many of the children evidenced sincere brokenness and a deep desire to know Jesus better. As the camp ended, balloons with notes attached were thrown into the air, symbolizing that those



Being in God's hands.

who released them were now in God's hands.

The Lord did something special at that camp. One girl, for example, went home and asked for forgiveness, and some of the children expressed a desire to get involved in ministry, both inside and outside the church. Lives were totally transformed.

Would you like to be involved in transforming lives for God? ACTION has opportunities around the world to impact children. Please consider becoming part of our team. For more information contact [info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org).

# TRANSFORMING LIVES

**I HAVE MINISTERED** to children for over thirty years, both inside and outside the church, and have seen lives transformed. What is transformation? It's defined as a process through which one becomes completely different. The transformation that all children's ministers seek is for children to become pleasing to God.

As a children's minister, I want to show children God's love and help them experience the best possible future. The Gospel needs to impact the next generation of leaders. As I minister to children, I often think about what their future will be—a godly husband or wife, a business leader whose life is marked by integrity, or a politician who serves his or her constituency well. This is true transformation.

Joseph's life was not all roses; it included many thorns. His brothers despised him, throwing him into a well and then selling him as a slave. Later, after being accused of sexual misconduct, he was thrown into prison,



A transformation moment.

where he had little contact with the outside. Nevertheless, because he had been transformed as a youngster, he remained close to God.

As they reached out to the children at camp, Marco and Claudia conveyed the message of transformation. They stepped out of their comfort zone, teaching those children the truths of God while they were still young, thereby giving them the opportunity to build their lives on a solid foundation.

A great need exists throughout the world today for mature Christians, and

maturity is attained as, “like newborn babies,” young believers, thirsting for God's Word, “[drink] pure spiritual milk, so that by it [they] may grow up in [their] salvation. . .” (1 Peter 2:2 NIV). The goal is to build a solid foundation that will remain firm when tested (James 1:3). That constitutes a spiritual metamorphosis.

Life is full of challenges and tests, which God uses to shape our character. ACTION wants to bring solid teachings to the youngsters of this world, so that they might grow in Christ and thereby be equipped to meet the demands of this world.

In ministry, unemployment is never a problem. Would you be willing to be employed to minister to the children of this world? If so, ACTION has a place for you. For more information, please send a message to [info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org).

*—Phil and Mariela Legal are missionaries in Colombia who have a heart for children.*

**Find out more!**

Contact us through any of the following:



ACTION INTERNATIONAL  
[www.actioninternational.org](http://www.actioninternational.org)

CHILDREN IN CRISIS  
[www.actioncic.org](http://www.actioncic.org)

EMAIL US  
[info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org)



## Action International Ministries

**USA:** PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 USA  
**Canada:** 3015A 21st St. NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1 Canada  
**UK:** PO Box 144, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 5WE United Kingdom

Registered Charity: 1058661

**425-775-4800**  
**403-204-1421**  
**0151-630-2451**