

# Summer Team Brazil—Betel

## General Information on Brazil

**Capital:** Brasilia  
**Currency:** Reai  
**Population:** 186, 078, 227  
**Language:** Portuguese, local dialects  
**Religion:** Roman Catholic (nominal) 73.6%, Protestant 15.4%, Spiritualist 1.3%, Bantu/voodoo 0.3%, other/none 9.4%  
**Climate:** Mostly tropical, but temperate in south.

**Life Expectancy:** total population: 71.97 years.  
**Under-5 infant mortality:** total: 28.6 deaths/1,000 live births.  
**Living with AIDS:** 660,000 (2003 est.)



## Summer Teams to Brazil

The Summer Team to Brazil will go to Betel Children's Home near Brasilia.

The 2010 team's objective will be to become part of the Betel community for a month, joining in with its activities and contributing to its life in the following ways:

1. tackling a practical project which helps with the maintenance of the property - building, renovating or redecorating. Previous teams have laid a pipeline, renovated the kitchens, given a facelift to one of the family units in which youngsters live.
2. organising creative, sporting and fun activities. These will be with groups of children, teenagers and occasionally everyone! It will be up to the team to decide what activities they can offer and to work out how to organise and explain them.
3. taking special responsibility for groups of youngsters. Pairs of team members are allocated to each of the family units so that they can get to know those children really well.
4. contributing to Sunday worship. An opportunity to communicate an aspect of the Good News or of living as a disciple of Christ using the team's collective creative skills.

Learning some Portuguese before departure is vital for this team.

**Dates:** 3 training weekends, in April, May and June (dates TBC) 30th July—22nd August (Team) **Cost:** £1800

**For more information:** [www.betelchildrenshome.org.uk](http://www.betelchildrenshome.org.uk)



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## Betel Children's Home

**FAZENDA BETEL** is situated in the municipality of Cocalzinho in the State of Goias. It is 120 km from the Federal Capital, Brasília, and 130km from Goiania the State Capital of Goias. Being at the end of a 9km track from the main road the farm's isolation means that it is its own little community. There is no phone or internet at Betel, but there is an office in Brasilia which can be contacted via Oasis in an emergency. Mobile phone reception is patchy.

In 2003 there were 136 youngsters living at the Fazenda: 49 children (23 girls 26 boys) and 87 teenagers (31 girls 56 boys). They are chiefly potential street children, kids who would have landed up on city streets, along with the millions who are already there, had they not been intercepted. They come from families that have disintegrated as a result of poverty or from which they have run following abuse and neglect. Some have been abandoned by parents or been in trouble with the law. The majority carry the scars, physical or psychological, of ill treatment by the adult world.



There are 5 mixed family units and two living quarters for the older teenagers. Betel is one of the few children's homes in Brazil where those with physical or mental handicaps are looked after. For many of these, Betel will be their permanent home.

The day starts at 6.30 am and, after a simple breakfast of a bread roll (baked on the premises) and a drink, everyone gets to work. For some this might be related to the daily running of the home and farm or in area of vocational training like the bakery, sewing & crochet rooms, woodwork shop. (Pastor Ernesto tries to equip his young people with skills that might be useful in later life) For others, there are school lessons; morning classes tend to cater for youngsters in the first four grades of primary education. The main meal is served at 11.30am – beans, rice, vegetables and occasionally meat. There follows a second work and school (for grades 5-8) session. At about 4pm there is time for recreation. The younger children are very imaginative in their play. A swimming area has been made in the nearby river and of course there are plenty of football pitches. After showers, there is an evening meal with a similar menu to lunch. There are usually evening prayers in the family units before bedtime.

The church is the focus for worship, led by the young people themselves, on Sunday and for meetings at other times.