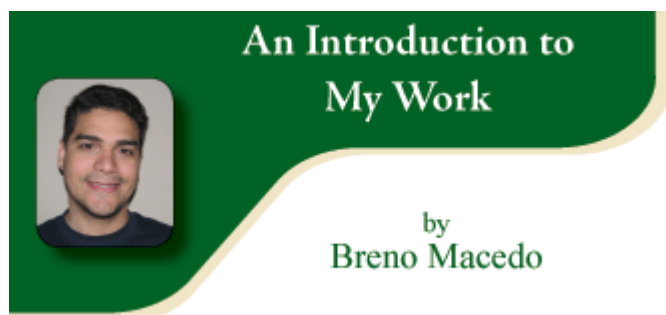


Subject: July 2008
From: C Daniel Wilson <dwilson@gpts.edu>
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 2008 14:34:54 -0400
To: Brenda Benson <bbenson@gpts.edu>

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

July E-Newsletter

Please add bbenson@gpts.edu to your address book to ensure delivery of email newsletters and other updates from Greenville Seminary.



An Introduction to
My Work
by
Breno Macedo



Brazil is a beautiful country. It has great beaches, loving people, an amazing literary heritage and it is technologically competitive. But one thing about this incredible country that possesses no beauty is its religious background. In the past it was dominated by Roman Catholic beliefs (one of the heritages from Portugal), today it is being devastated by neo-charismatic churches who quickly spread a weak and unbiblical theology and whose leaders bring shame to the name of Christ through their wicked lifestyle. That is the reason for the Brazilian presence at GPTS: to be well prepared to preach the simple biblical and reformed gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ at Tupiniquins lands.

The Presbyterian Church has had a presence in Brazil for almost 150 years. In 1859 a young lad from Pennsylvania, after his graduation from Princeton under Professor Charles Hodge, was ordained and sent to Brazil as a missionary effort of the PCUSA to preach the gospel and the Presbyterian standards in that country. His name was Ashbel Green Simonton. In 1860, Rev. Simonton preached his first sermon in the Portuguese language and in 1862 founded the first Presbyterian Church in Brazil, located in Rio de Janeiro. That single church multiplied by the grace of God into 2,304 churches, distributed in 236 presbyteries.

My mother took me to church from the time I was three years old. It was a very small Presbyterian church near my house. My father was not a Christian, but he never forbade us to go to church, in fact he always encouraged us to go. Thus every Sunday he used to drive us all the way to the church and get us back for lunch.

I spent most of my years, actually until I was twenty, attending the services, working in various departments, studying the Scriptures, playing and singing in worship groups. When I turned twenty, I started dating a girl from another Presbyterian church and that was when I left my first church and started attending hers. I spent four years there with the same involvement as in the previous one. Until that time I had never heard of reformed theology and my

In the month of June we received donations totaling \$105,153. The contributions were \$56,570 over budget. Donations for the fiscal year were \$629,035 which was \$46,035 over budget. Expenses for the fiscal year were \$52,988 over budget.

Income for the Capital Funds Campaign has reached \$1,953,285 and we anticipate another \$1,029,157 in outstanding pledges. As mentioned in previous months, due to inflation and the interest on our loan, we need to raise an additional \$500,000 in new pledges to complete the objectives of the Campaign.

"Please Pray With Us"

July Prayer Requests:

- Please continue to pray for God's provision of financial resources to meet both our on-going General Fund needs and for the completion of our Capital Campaign.
- Please pray for foreign students who are considering enrolling this year or in 2009. Pray that God will provide wisdom, discernment and encouragement.
- Mike Cuneo, a GPTS alumnus (2006) requests prayer that God would provide support, enabling him to preach the Gospel and minister in Italy. (You can read about Mike's plans at www.missiontoitaly.com)
- Pray for the family of Jennifer and Stephen Murphy. Jennifer's father and brother both died in a rafting accident in May. Stephen

knowledge of the Scriptures was very superficial compared to the length of time of my church involvement.

In 2002, while attending to the Puritan Conference in Brazil, I met Dr. Pipa. Being sensitive to my desire to study he invited me to be part of the tuition waiver student program offered by GPTS. It took me and my wife four years of preparation to get to the US and by the grace of God here we are. I am currently enrolled in the M.Div. program and have already finished the first year of the course.

My work at the seminary is in the technological department. After spending 5 years at a university in Brazil and acquiring the B.A. in Electronic Engineering I felt that the knowledge acquired could be of use during my theological studies. Desktop and laptop computers, I.P. telephony, internet conferencing, printers and faxes, wireless and wired network are among the technologies currently being used at the seminary to enhance teachers' performance and students' instruction; and all of them are of my concern. So, if you have a problem, please let know.

My prayer is that our Lord may continue His blessings toward this institution and that He may raise up faithful donors whose main goal is to enable the preparation of faithful ministers of the Gospel. May He cause GPTS to grow even more, bringing students from nations all around the world and giving them the privilege to study under such a godly and wise faculty, and that this may happen for His glory and for the edification, expansion and establishment of Christ's kingdom.

graduated from Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2002 and is now ministering in Douglas, GA.

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