

Church Planting & Development

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and ministries

Brazil Need: \$8,000

Funding the **Brazil Church Planting & Development (CPD)** will help resource the following strategic initiatives:

- ♦ Church planting
- ♦ Leadership development

FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS

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Brazil



Connect with God's heart for the world.

Brazil

Brazil

- Population: 215,086,000 (86.5% urban)
- Major Cities: São Paulo (20 million), Rio de Janeiro (12 million), Belo Horizonte (5.9 million)
- Evangelical Christians: 24.94%



Brazilian General Conference

- FM Work Opened: 1946
- FM Churches: 75
- FM Membership: 7,702
- Ordained Elders: 113
- Conference Ministerial Candidates: 46
- Bishop: José Ildo Swartelle de Mello
- Ecclesiastical Accountability: Free Methodist World Conference



Nikkei Provisional General Conference

- FM Work Opened: 1936
- FM Churches: 37
- FM Membership: 2,792
- Ordained Elders: 35
- Conference Ministerial Candidates: 10
- Conference Superintendent: Daniel Seiji Abe



The Free Methodist Church in Brazil

Origins

In 1928 Daniel Nishizumi, a Free Methodist minister, traveled from Japan to Brazil at his own expense to do missionary work among the Japanese living there. He was followed by other Japanese laymen and ministers in an influx of Japanese immigration. The first FM church was organized in 1936. (Brazil, and particularly the São Paulo metro area, is home to the largest Japanese community outside of Japan – 1.5 million.)

Ten years later the first board-appointed missionaries arrived, Misses Lucile Damon and Helen Voller. They, and those who followed, worked with both the Japanese and the Brazilians. A seminary was built in Mairipora and later relocated in 1965 in the city of São Paulo. Because of the differences in language and culture, the churches separated into two conferences in 1966: the Nikkei (or Japanese) and the Brazilian.

Present Ministries

The Brazilian General Conference of the FMC has seen significant growth in recent years. Previously centered in the state of São Paulo, it has become a general conference with five regional conferences, including West-Central and Northeast Brazil. There are new church planting initiatives throughout the country. In addition, the general conference oversees the Free Methodist Church in Angola. Missionaries who began their ministry in the Brazilian conference are serving overseas.

Outreach to the World

The two Brazilian conferences have sent missionaries to Portugal, Italy, Japan, Hungary, a creative access country, East Timor (Indonesia), Equatorial Guinea, Venezuela, and the Suruwahá tribe in the Amazon Rainforest. Furthermore, the general conference oversees a mission district in Angola. The Nikkei Conference connects with Japanese-descendent churches in Paraguay, Peru and Argentina.