

# BRAZIL CHURCH PLANTING MINISTRY

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## Roof Completed on Juiz de Fora Building

The church in the city of Juiz de Fora is making good progress on the construction of their building. This is one of the 3 churches we are developing to be large, self-supporting, missionary churches, which will plant churches in the many large cities around them. Juiz de Fora is a dynamic, industrial city of 600,000, with many other large cities around it in which we do not have Churches of Christ. The picture to the right is a view of part of the downtown area, seen from a scenic overlook. The part shown is only about ¼ of the downtown area.

The church in Juiz de Fora is growing well. They have had at least 9 baptisms this year, plus some members who moved there from other cities. This church has had to meet in 4 different locations in the 5 years they have been there. In each of these moves, they lost some members and many good contacts. So they desperately needed a permanent building of their own.



Construction began on the building in September of last year. They recently completed the walls and poured the concrete floor. They then built the forms for the concrete roof and poured the concrete, as you can see in the picture on the left. There will eventually be a second story with class rooms and a covered patio on top for special activities. However, we only plan to help them build the first floor. The rest they will build in stages as the church grows and has greater financial resources. They hope to have the building ready to meet in for the VBS and Campaign in the second half of July. They need to install the windows and doors, the bathrooms, and the electrical and hydraulic systems in order to be able to begin meeting in it. The finishing work will be done little by little as they have the funds

to do it. They will be able to use the rent money they save for the construction when they move into it.

I will be with them in mid July for the beginning of their VBS and Campaign with about 9 people from the sponsoring congregation in Midland, Michigan. Then I will leave and let them finish it without me. This building will greatly facilitate the growth of the congregation and convince the community (and the members) that it is there to stay.

The work started with 5 families of full time workers, and we have now cut the number down to two families. It is our hope that in 5 more years the church will be able to support at least one of those families, as the church works toward becoming self-supporting. We will probably continue to support the other worker for another 5 years so that the church can reach the point that it will have the resources to plant other churches around them.

The picture on the right shows a meeting of the church during a campaign last July, with a group of campaigners from the church in Ovilla, a suburb of Dallas. Please pray for the continued growth of the church in Juiz de Fora, which Cherokee Hills helps support.

