

Azoreans in Brazil



Photo: Honrado



Map: Joshua Project / GMI / IMB

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

People Name	Azoreans
Country	Brazil
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	217,000
Language	Portuguese
Religion	Other Religions
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Gospel Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	4
Workers Reported	0

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

Between 1500-1700 AD, the Portuguese Crown was focused on securing its highly lucrative Portuguese empire in Asia, and so it did little to protect the newly discovered lands in the Americas from foreign pirates. As a result, Portugal needed to quickly populate Brazil with married adults and children. Throughout the 17th century, families from Portugal's Azore Islands were settled along the Brazilian frontier.

There were many reasons why Azoreans settled in Brazil. Overpopulation on the Azore Islands led to starvation and lack of employment. The land tenure system on the islands allowed no opportunity to better oneself, and the Portuguese government's mandatory military conscription for 14-year-olds caused thousands of young men to flee these islands.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Settlers cleared bush and rocks to plant crops—grain, grape vines, sugar cane, and other plants suitable for local use and of commercial value. They brought domesticated animals, such as chickens, rabbits, cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs and built houses and established villages. Their lives are much like this today in Brazil.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The primary religion practiced by the Azoreans is Spiritism, a belief in the capacity to communicate with the spirits of the dead who reside in the spirit world and can be contacted by 'mediums'. Followers of Spiritism believe these spirits can provide valuable information about the afterlife.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

A low literacy rate suggests that printed presentations of the gospel will be inadequate for Azorean Brazilian communities. Stories from scripture, recordings, and videos will all be needed and useful. Believers equipped and broken over the physical and spiritual needs of these people must be willing to live and work among them to earn trust and the privilege to speak God's truth to them.

PRAYER POINTS

* Pray urgently (deomai) for the Lord to thrust out (ekballo) workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Lk 10:2 and Jn 4:35)

* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in this people group where Christ is not

preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)

SOURCES

<https://goo.gl/AerpXc>
<https://goo.gl/OyA1nS>
<https://goo.gl/ufIhJG>
<https://goo.gl/3gMJRh>
<https://goo.gl/fzZCKF>
<https://goo.gl/ubU4ed>
<https://goo.gl/nlL1RP>