

# Personal narrative trip to sao paulo, brazil



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

It's the largest country in South America! It is also the world's largest country by geographical area with a population of 192 million people. It is the only Portuguese -speaking country in the Americas. The summer of 2011, I counted down the days until I until my trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil. This was the first mission trip I had ever been on with other people. As a matter of fact, it was the first time I had flown out of the country. On Saturday, July 16, 2011, we had finally arrived at the airport in Brazil. After getting our suitcases, we found the pastors' from the churches that we were going to be working with. When we arrived at the hotel, we went and had lunch. Afterwards, we all went back to our rooms to freshen up and get ready for a welcoming ceremony, which was held at one of the churches that night. The next day was big day for us, or at least for me it was! We were going to go out into the streets of Sao Paulo and do street evangelism. We each grabbed a handful of English - Portuguese tracts and handed them to the people we met on the street. Following, we went to some house and gave tracts to the people who lived there, and we also used an evangecube to tell about the story of Jesus. That we morning, we may have lead more than 20 people to Christ. Later on, we went and had lunch before we had to go back to church that night. The first three days of being in Brazil, away from my family and friends was very sad for me, especially since my phone didn't work. By the fourth day, I was ready to go back home. I was afraid to eat the food because I had never had any food from another country. Then I realized that their food was similar to ours. They have a big lunch and a small snack for dinner. The everyday meal we ate consisted of mostly rice and beans with beef and a salad.

On the Monday, July 18, we went out that morning to do more street evangelism, but this time we split up into teams. We wanted to lead as many people as we could to Christ. The next day, we did a little more street evangelism, but that night, three men from the team who are preachers went to three different churches and spoke to the people. After the services were over, we had them order us pizza. On our way back to the hotel, I became devastated by what I saw. As I looked out the window I saw people sleeping on the ground or on top of trash bags. I also saw them digging through the trash bags, trying to find something to eat.

As we rode down the road and I saw more people lying on the corner and on the ground, I began to cry. Seeing this shattered my heart into a million pieces. I couldn't believe my eyes, at what I saw. I wanted to get off the bus and help them in any way that I could. As we pulled into the hotel parking lot, I got off the bus and went to my room. I was too devastated to eat anything; all I wanted to do was sleep. But before I lay down to sleep, I knelt down to say a prayer. I prayed that they would have a better life, and that someone would come into their lives and teach them about God and his love for us.

On the Tuesday, July 19, and Wednesday, July 20, we had a lot to do. Which included getting all the crafts prepared for the vacation bible school, putting air in the soccer balls for the sports event, delivering a package of food to one of the families in need, and doing a little more street evangelism. On Tuesday I got to help deliver the food to the family in need. I also got to demonstrate my evangecube to the family as well. From July 21 through the

23, everything was a little different. These three days were dedicated to the children. We had a three – day Vacation Bible School for the children.

There my heart leaped for joy to see so many young children give their lives to God. On the last day of the VBS, we had a sporting event. The Brazilians were going to play soccer against the Americans. I really enjoyed watching the American men play against the Brazilian boys and men. At the end of the week, we had over 100 people give their lives to Christ, and I happened to lead at least 30 of them! On Friday, July 22 the Brazilians had a goodbye ceremony for the Americans that night at church. This ceremony symbolized that we are not just friends, but we were brothers and sisters in Christ.

Nobody wanted to leave, including myself. My life had changed drastically while I was in Brazil, and I wanted to stay. Nothing in me wanted to come back to the states, I needed to get the word of God out around Brazil. When I arrived back home I had a different mindset on life. This trip opened my eyes to see that we often complain about the things we don't have in life. Going to Brazil not only gave me the insight on what it's like outside of the states, but it also gave me the insight on how others see and worship God. This trip made a huge impact on my life, and I want to continue to do mission work.