



*Paz y  
Esperanza*



## Supporting Brazilians suffering from the coronavirus crisis

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4 v 6*

As we move towards easing lockdown in the UK, and as the spread of the coronavirus is more under control, Latin America has become the new epicentre of the pandemic. Brazil has been critically affected, with the second highest number of deaths globally. We asked **Country Director of Paz y Esperanza Brazil, Alexandre Brasil**, to share with us what the situation is on the ground and what PyE is doing to help

Alexandre said: "We invite our brothers and sisters to come together with us as we pray for the situation in Brazil during this trying time."

*Please pray for all those in Brazil who are vulnerable, including indigenous people. May churches offer compassionate pastoral support to the families experiencing unspeakable suffering. We pray that the government will confront the public health emergency and care for its citizens as well as protect the natural environment. May the Holy Spirit comfort and provide for those in need.*

The situation is deeply worrying. Cases and deaths are rising daily and the worst may be yet to come.

Whereas we should expect the government to be unified in tackling the pandemic, President Jair Bolsonaro has opposed social distancing and prioritised the economy over public health. Two ministers from the Ministry of Health have resigned because they opposed Bolsonaro's methods and an army general has been appointed in their place, with additional military personnel in government positions.

The vast majority of these people have no experience in the field of public health. The government has tried to hide data on the spread of the Coronavirus and have been ignoring the guidelines laid out by the World Health Organisation and evidence-based advice from Brazilian scientists. This has caused widespread outrage and is having untold consequences on the lives of the most vulnerable people.

The Amazon rainforest, which should be a priority for protection to tackle climate change, and for action to safeguard the health of indigenous peoples living there and support their livelihoods, has seen increased levels of deforestation and violence against indigenous leaders. The Environment Minister has said publicly that it was important to take advantage of the lack of attention of the press due to COVID-19, and change the rules in environmental policy.

The PyE Brazil team have been taking some steps to help communities. They have led a campaign of 35 evangelical organisations calling for prayers for Brazil. This has included materials for churches to help them navigate the crisis and support their parishes, as well as a website for people to check news surrounding the crisis, to try and stop the significant amount of misinformation circulating about the pandemic. The website has reached about 100,000 people so far.



*Two PyE team members are pastors in a Methodist church in the city of Salvador, in the north of the country. They are based in a poor community which lacks basic sanitation, access to healthcare and social rights. The pastors are leading a fundraising campaign to purchase food and basic personal hygiene and cleaning supplies for 50 families*

#### **A DATE WITH ALFONSO WIELAND AND ALEXANDRE BRASIL**

Please join us for a live Zoom webinar on Monday **July 13th at 8pm** (UK time) with Alfonso Wieland (Peru) and Alexandre Brasil (Brazil), to hear about how Covid-19 is affecting their countries and how Paz y Esperanza is responding.

Register your interest with Gordon Davies at [gdavies@pazyesperanza.org](mailto:gdavies@pazyesperanza.org) and we will send login details the day before. Relax, it will be in English!

**Thank you for your prayers and your contributions to our ongoing COVID-19 appeal. The money is going straight to PyE in Latin America to provide practical help such as food parcels and hygiene equipment through the local churches so please keep donating.**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pyecovid-19response>

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