



Miriam Infant Home — Brazil



How it Started

The Miriam Infant Home was started in 1990 with one little boy, who's Mother died from a heart attack in her early 20's. Social Services from Campo Mourão had come up to see if we could take this child, because it was the Grandmas wish, as she was a member of our Central Church. The Mother had several other children & the father was an alcoholic, the rest of the family pitched in to help, but they also had children of their own to care for. Grandma took one of the older ones but this little baby really had no place to go. We had thought about starting a home for children but not so soon. So little Ricardo came to us and the Miriam Infant Home was born. Since Ricardo, hundreds of children have passed through our doors - some being adopted to other families, others returning to their recuperated family.

How Many and what Ages

It is hard to give an exact number of children in the Miriam Home, as children are always coming & going. We have on the average 20 children at any given time, ranging in age from new born babies up to 10, some will stay for maybe a few days, while others can remain for months to years. The children come from broken homes, suffering from, malnutrition, physical & mental abuse.



▶ SECOND FLOOR: The older kids, ages 6 - 10 live on the second floor. Their day starts out with breakfast of bread & coffee with milk, those that do not have 'homework' can go outside to play, while the rest have to finish their homework. By around 11AM, everybody takes a bath to get ready for lunch and school. Noon is lunch of beans, rice, salad (lettuce, tomatoes) every other day some sort of meat (chicken, beef, pork or fish) and a vegetable (green beans, cauliflower, broccoli, beets etc.) We raise all our own vegetables, for the children.

FIRST FLOOR

The small ones, new born babies to age 5 live on the first floor. Their day is pretty simple, as all small kids do they are up early in the AM. Eat their breakfast of bread & coffee with warm milk. Then out to play on the asphalt court, when the weather is nice, where they can run, ride their bikes, write with chalk or play some games. If the weather is raining or cold they stay inside, were they can play games or watch videos. We can't forget nap times twice a day.

Daily life



How can I help?

Pray

Share

Did you know that with just \$2 a day you can help support one of the children in the Miriam Infant Home.

What happens to the Children



▶ FIRST: Social Services & the juvenile judge try to place these children back with one or both of their parents, after a time of trying to recuperate the home situation.

▶ SECOND: They can be up for adoption. This can be a very long and complicated process. A parent or guardian must sign legal papers turning the child over to the courts (this is the hardest part, because some people don't want to sign the child over). During this process the children may stay with us from birth to ten years old. As a child gets older, the problem of adoption becomes very difficult.



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