



Easter, 2010

## Kingdoms of Darkness & Light

Overcome with loneliness and despair, Cídia agreed to make a blood pact with the Devil. Her *macumbeira* (cult priestess) told her that it was the only way she could free herself from her suffering, the only way to escape her heavy burden of debt, the only way to find a handsome husband.

“The Devil comes to steal, to kill, and destroy,” she says. “But when you're in the middle of it [witchcraft] you're not able to recognize the truth.”

That night Cídia headed home in a frantic search for money – the cash she'd need to buy a black goat for the sacrifice, black candles for the *macumba* altar, and the ceremonial dress she would need to present herself to the Devil.

But when she arrived home, a miracle was waiting at the door! There was her friend Aparecida, who'd come to share her faith and lead Cídia into the company of Christian friends.

That night the power of the darkness was forever broken in her life! She never bought the

Devil's goat or dressed herself in the Devil's garb. In fact, she never returned to the *macumba* temple where once she'd worshiped. (See her full testimony on page 4!)

Today, by God's mercy and power, Cídia is a woman of strong faith, filled with hope and unburdened of debt. Having proved herself as a soul winner and discipler, she's been selected now to join a special team that's starting a new PAZ base in the state of Mato Grosso, in the city of *Sinop*.

“We're going there to win souls for Christ!” she declares.

Our hand-picked team, led by Pastor Vitório Guimarães, includes six families and several singles. Though the team has only been working in *Sinop* a short while, the Sunday service is already drawing more than 50 people! What's more,



*Backed by friends from her home church in Moraes de Almeida, Cídia de Sousa (front) prepares for the work ahead in Sinop. Her T-shirt reads: In Service to the Lord Jesus!*



*Excitement and prayers fill the air as PAZ opens its new base in Mato Grosso. Left to right are: Paul Augustine, chairman of the PAZ board; Pastor Vitório Guimarães and his wife Maria, leaders of the new base; and short-term missionary Doug Carter.*

several local people have given their lives to the Lord and been baptized! (See photos.)

It's a daunting task to start a new base in a region of the Amazon where we've never ventured. The Paz Churches here have stepped forward to do their part, covering most of the team's living expenses and purchasing land in a strategic location for a future church building.

But they can't do it alone. We still face the VERY BIG CHALLENGE of renting a temporary building and equipping it for the church's use.

We bring this critical need before you, asking for your help, declaring that the Amazon belongs to Christ and that the Kingdom of Darkness cannot stand against Him! *Your donation will be targeted 100% to help establish the new base and supply the baby church with its needs:* rent money, chairs, a pulpit, office supplies, and air conditioning so the congregation won't melt away in the torrid heat and humidity.

We bless you and thank you for being our faithful partners, and praise God for the wonderful harvest that lies ahead!

By grace,



Jeff & Becky Hrubik (for the PAZ team)  
Project Amazon  
Santarém, Brazil  
/dmb

P.S. Donations can be made by returning the enclosed pledge card, or on-line at:

[www.projectamazon.org](http://www.projectamazon.org).



### **First Fruits!**

*Though our team in Sinop has only been there since February, they've already won several people to the Lord and held baptisms.*



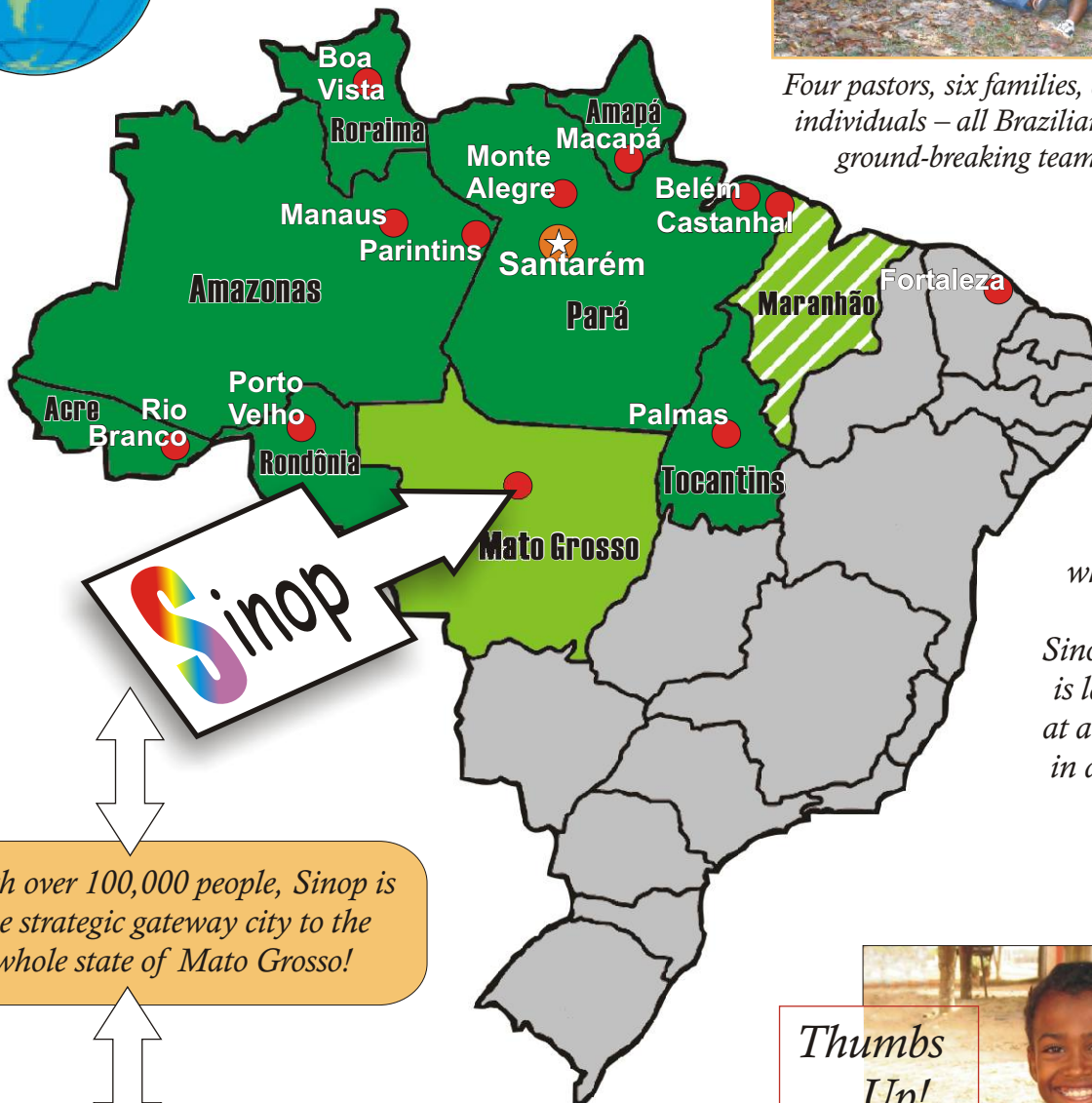
**WWW.PROJECTAMAZON.ORG**

# Winning the Amazon for Christ!

*By the grace of God, Project Amazon is starting its 12th base in the Amazon, opening up the giant state of Mato Grosso!*



*Four pastors, six families, and many hearty individuals – all Brazilians – comprise our ground-breaking team in Mato Grosso.*

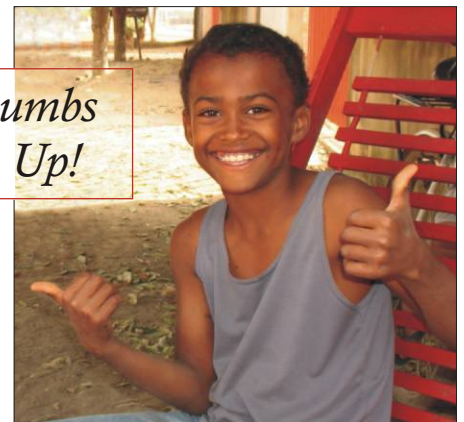


*PAZ has purchased an excellent lot on which to build the new church in Sinop. The property is large and located at a key intersection in a fast-developing neighborhood.*

*With over 100,000 people, Sinop is the strategic gateway city to the whole state of Mato Grosso!*

*With 348,788 sq. miles, Mato Grosso is Brazil's third largest state (about the size of Texas and Oklahoma combined). Many of the 1.8 million Brazilians who live here have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel!*

*Thumbs Up!*





## TESTIMONY: *Cidia Moreira de Sousa*

*Cidia was born in Amarinópolis, Goiás in 1955. At her home church in Moraes de Almeida, she has won many people to the Lord and proved herself a strong discipler. Recently, she was hand-picked to help start the new PAZ base in Sinop, Mato Grosso.*

**I** was born into a poor family in *Amarinópolis*, the 5th of 10 children. I was lured into *macumba* (witchcraft) because I sought the affection of a young man who had no interest in me. The cult priestess told me that she could win him for me – or even line me up with a handsome young doctor – if I would make sacrifices to the *macumba* gods and goddesses.

Little by little she involved me in witchcraft, till I was able to hear the voices of demons and began to follow their orders. The Devil comes to steal and kill and destroy, but when you're in the middle of it you're not able to recognize the truth. Enthralled to my personal demons, I performed animal sacrifices and cast spells.

But my life was miserable and I was deeply in debt. Some friends had witnessed to me about Christ, but I was torn between those influences and my deep involvement with *macumba*.

One afternoon, the *macumba* priestess told me that what I needed most was to unleash the full power of my demons, and to do that I would need to make a blood pact with the Devil. I went home in tears, in a panic to find enough money to buy a black goat, black candles and the ceremonial dress I would need to present myself to the Devil.

But when I got home, there waiting for me was my friend Aparecida. God had spoken to her through the Holy Spirit and brought her to see me. She persuaded me – despite the demons that were warring against it – to go visit some other Christian friends. All the way there, I knew that Aparecida was earnestly praying for me. When we arrived, she introduced me to her friend Luzia, who prayed over me and cast the demons out of me.

After that, I gave my life to the Lord Jesus and have never returned to practice *macumba*. I believe – from what I discovered afterwards – that the people at the *macumba* temple were planning to kill me that night, so the Lord saved me twice, first from physical death and then from the spiritual death that has no end.

I am so excited now to be part of this great effort we're making to open a new PAZ base in *Sinop*, in the state of *Mato Grosso*. We're going there to win souls for Christ, not just in *Sinop*, but across the whole state!

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

*– John 10:10*