



## LIKE A MUSTARD SEED




The downtown church is in the process of planting another congregation in a neighborhood five miles southwest. Thirty members that live in and around that community (most depend upon public transportation), will begin meeting there instead of coming downtown. When it begins next April, it will be Recife's **fifteenth congregation** of the Lord's church. The goal of the downtown church is to plant a new church every two or three years until all three-and-a-half million inhabitants of the city have a congregation within walking distance of their home.

I want to focus this report on a church planting made eleven years ago in the northern suburb of Olinda (368,000 pop.). This congregation started when seventeen members from the downtown church began meeting in a public school near their homes, instead of traveling the ten miles downtown. **Antonio Silva** (with the aid of his God-given helpmate **Marilene**) has served this congregation as evangelist since the beginning. During that time they have grown to over **a hundred members** and have helped to plant **three** other congregations.

After years of moving around in public schools they celebrated another milestone last week when they **inaugurated their own meeting place**. It is easily accessible, located less than a quarter-mile from the heart of their community. An especially encouraging sign of the church's maturity is that they purchased the land and built the building without outside funding. It was a slow-but-sure fruit-bearing growth process. *Reminds me of a story Someone once told.*

And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? "It is **like a mustard seed**, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade."

– Mark 4:30-32 



Silas, 15, Marilene, Estevão, 10, Antonio and Joel, 8.



The congregation is well along the process of developing a mature leadership with **elders and deacons**.



The new auditorium was filled with **187** present for the inauguration assembly that included **20** visitors.

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