

Missão Aprender Brasil

30.06. - 01.08.2013

Um outro mundo é possível - Another world is possible!

Travel diary



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Foreword

The Mission to learn and the challenge of diversity

"We the Cajueiros, the IPJ (Instituto Paulista da Juventude) and the DKA Austria have been dreaming for a long time of this colourful exchange with participants from all over the world. You as you are all sitting here now are actualizing and living our dream." (Padre Giraldo Nascimento)

The LernEinsatz ("Missão aprender"- "The Mission to learn") that DKA is realizing in cooperation with socially very committed people from Brazil already has a history of more than ten years. Austrians went to Brazil already three times and two times Brazilians had a one-month learning experience in Austria. And in 2013- (just) one more exchange in Brazil? Yes and no! This exchange has particularly stood out for especially one reason and by that probably remarks a new age in the history of the LernEinsatz: For one month 31 participants from not only Brazil and Austria, but seven other countries (South Africa, Ghana, Cameroon, India, Columbia, El Salvador and Guatemala) met each other to discuss youth realities in their countries. Besides their work for the young people in their home-countries what all participants have in common is their relationship to DKA Austria.

In this month we had an inside into Brazilian youth reality, the MST (landless workers' movement), the popular pharmacy (farmacia popular); we visited a basic Christian community, São Paulo, Goiania, Rio de Janeiro and a lovely monastery in Goias Velho. There was time to discuss the reality of young people in all our countries, show some examples and methods from our works and not to forget the cultural approach to our countries via singing, dancing and playing. Many different cultural backgrounds, languages, (eating-) habits, body-distance matters etc form a big diversity which from the first moment also revealed its challenges. For thus, openness, tolerance, curiosity and patience were our daily companions to get in touch with each other and to learn from each other. Language Barriers- yes of course, communication barriers - and no, for all those who spoke the language of music, a very intense body language, humour and the language of the heart. Sometimes our own *intercambio* (exchange) language overwhelmed us: Let's vamos essen!

Back in Austria, with a backpack full of lovely memories and an enriched, encouraged and wider heart we would like to say thank you. In first place to DKA-Austria that through their work, effort and their belief in the project made this encounter possible. Thank you and obrigada to Cajueiros and the IPJ in São Paulo, the organizations that made the preparation for this program with so much energy and cared for us so well. Thanks to all the host families that opened their doors for us strangers. Obrigada to all Brazilians that took their time to share their life, their struggles and their hopes with us and thanks to all those who have been touched by these stories. Thanks to the Austrian and to the whole international group to open up their minds and hearts, for the mutual inspiration and the connection that hopefully lasts forever.

Obrigada DEUS por tudo!

(Barbara Karner Austrian group leader)

Participants and their fields of work

Camila Freitas & Vande Oliveira Zé



Both are living and working in São Paulo and are teachers; Camila teaches Portuguese and Zé teaches philosophy in different schools in São Paulo and are part of the project Tenda Literária (<http://tendaliteraria.blogspot.com>). The object of this project is to transform public space into cultural space with workshops and literature production of different suburban regions from São Paulo. The target group is the Youth, so that they can get in touch with literature and culture and interact with other people.



Livia Lima da Silva

Livia is from São Paulo and currently studies Portuguese and French. She works presently as a journalist in the east zone of São Paulo for the blog "Mural" (<http://mural.blogfolha.uol.com.br/categorias/leste/>). It started out as a free blog for students, which later on got sponsored by the newspaper Folha de S. Paulo. The journalists are free to write whatever they want and get technical support from the paper in case it is needed. Livia writes mostly about topics of the eastern zone of São Paulo and does not just write about the violence there, like in the main media, but offers a different point of view on various subjects. One of her last articles is about the building of the new Corinthians stadium and the question who really gains from it.



Deyse Brumatti



Deyse lives in a neighboring city of São Paulo. Her life project is the youth and sustainability. She works within different youth projects with the AHPCE (<http://www.ahpce.org.br/newsite/>) since 10 years. They see the youth as the best agent to make a difference for our environment – they try to give them a complete education, including sustainability. They offer different workshops like making arts from garbage, sustainable tourism, reforestation and how to use and process materials from our nature.

Elder Barrera

Elder is from the Southern part of Colombia and loves to sing some songs of his rich Columbian song collection whenever he gets the chance to do so.

Within his organization (Rojuvis – Red de Organizaciones Juveniles Vicaria del Sur – Caqueta) they try to promote peace, values within the families and communities and how to live and participate in democracy and teach human rights. Their objective is to support the youth with formation and to help them to feel connected and committed to their community in order to fight against conflicts together. Most important is that the youth realize that it is their own life and that they can decide how to live it. They have various aspects within their programs: religion (teaching Christian values), spirituality, integral formation (social, psychological help, sexual rights, drugs, gender, music, bible reading, environmental protection, society values,...) teaching values with games, recycling & cultural workshops, protection of community (sustainability issues, helping the elderly). This project is additionally to school education and works currently with 1.100 kids.



Júlio César Costa & Hélia Marina Monteiro

Both of them work for the PJ (Pastoral da Juventude <http://www.pj.org.br/>) Hélia is from Goiânia, where she currently studies music and works in her parish on a voluntary basis with drug addicts where she tries to create an atmosphere where the youth can talk freely and is heard. Júlio lives and works in São Paulo and is the regional representative of the PJ in São Paulo. The PJ exists since 40 years, and is associated with the



Catholic Church, but the PJ in contrast is more open and concerned with youth topics. They work mainly with the five steps: to see, judge, act, evaluate and celebrate. Their objective is to offer a basic orientation and to show the youth that another world is possible and to give them guidance to get out of their ordinary life's. They mainly work with workshops, where the youth is working voluntarily with the youth (15-29). The church does not support them financially as their topics are too progressive.

Their main projects are: formation, spiritual formation, "a juventude quer viver" (meaning: the youth wants to live - a big project which happens outside of the parishes), communication workshops, Ajuri (indigenous word: meaning rights of the poor, where they focus on saving and protection traditions and folklore) and sexual discussions.

Paula Gentil

Paula is from the very south part of São Paulo and teaches sports. She works within a modern dance project "Novo Corpo Cia de Dança" (<http://novocorpocia1.wix.com/novo-corpo>) with children and teenagers with the goal to start political and critical discussions. Furthermore she is engaged in another project in the South which is a common library (<http://bibliotecaejaac.blogspot.co.at/>) where they offer a cultural meeting point for the youth – whereof are too less in Brazil.



Maria Helena Sanabria

Maria Helena is from El Salvador and works as a journalist. Furthermore she is engaged within the organization FUNDAHMER (<http://www.fundahmer.org.sv/>) which works with base communities and tries to empower them and promote solidarity within them. They work with spiritual and religious values, theology, the bible and human rights in order to strengthen the society, and support to local development against poverty and environmental destruction. Moreover they have a program called "Accion y vida", which is created by the youth itself, which includes a cultural centre. They try to support and protect youngsters who have already left or thinking of leaving gangs, so that they can still live within El Salvador and their communities and that they do not have to leave the country.



Enrique González (Kike)

Kike is from Guatemala and works for the dioceses San Marcos within the youth pastoral, where they accompany young people in their way of life and help them to become better protagonists within the society. Their main focus lays on presenting Jesus Christ in an attractive way to the youth, to form youth pastoral agents who are committed and protagonists within their society. Apart from this he also works in a local Radio station.



Ronan Marcelino

Ronan is from Brazil and lives in Goiânia. He is a real all-round talent and works within different social projects as a volunteer, where he holds hip hop, graffiti, street art, capoeira workshops. He uses music, dance, arts and sports to gather people and to create a trusting atmosphere, where they can talk and discuss various current social and political issues. If you want to find out more about his work you can visit his blog: <http://bumerangue.jimdo.com/>. Currently he is employed by a Social Circus: Circo Dom Fernando.



Thiesco Crisóstomo



Thiesco is from the North of Brazil and lives in Marabá. He is the national secretary of the youth pastoral of Brazil. One of his main campaigns he is currently working on is "a juventude quer viver – chego de violencia e extermina de jovens". This campaign is on a national level and is part of the work of PJ (<http://www.pj.org.br/projetos/a-juventude-quer-viver>). The main aim is to raise and build awareness of youth violence, to find out the roots of the problem and to find solutions and a way out of this violent circle.

Marcelo Antonio Lemos

Marcelo, is at the age of 30 come from Goiania and overwhelmed the whole group with his humour, lovely and loud character. (remember in the Bus from



Brasilia and Goiania when suddenly someone felt the mood to shout a very loud GOOOD MORNING) He as well as some other CAJUEIROS worked before in the CAJU (Casa da Juventude) where they have been fired and then got together as the CAJUEIROS, an institute for YOUTH matters.

Marcelo was in the priest seminary of the Franciscans where he studied theology and philosophy.

Sagar Gabbeta and Pallavi Jessy

Pallavi and Sagar are from India (from the district Warangal in Andhra Pradesh state). Both of them are working in a national organization in their diocese in the ARUNODAYA YOUTH CENTER. Their guiding principles are: aspire, inspire and achieve. They offer a lot of activities and courses such as job orientation, mobile repairing, tailoring, and beautician, driving courses, aids awareness, blood donation, plantation, prison ministry, sports and games... and are helping the children with their studies.



Abongwe Qokela

Abongwe lives in Cape Town, South Africa. She is working in an NGO called "Catholic Welfare and Development", in the fields of Arts & Culture and Life Skills



& Leadership. The organization runs workshops, dialogues as well as camps with youth from around disadvantaged communities. Young children are coming to them because nobody takes care of them. They get directly to the children and show them their roots and give them back their own culture (the parents want

to grow them up "white"), try to get the children again back to school (in Soth Africa there is not a discrimination about the colour of your skin anymore but about your education so it's very important that children do get a good education), give them leadership and skills education (to either run their own business or to find a job in for example a kitchen service) and support them with clothes, helping them with their homework, do sports with them and let them express with arts and culture.

Selina Aboyinga

Selina is from Bolgatanga, the Northern part of Ghana and lives in Tamale. She is still studying (Secretary ship and Management), and next to that on Sundays she



is giving liturgy education to children and young people in her parish. There are a lot of youth activities and groups within the diocese, and they are working together with an NGO called "Right to Play" with whom they come in touch with the children while their sportive training. Especially for female young persons who are pregnant the diocese wants to give them the opportunity to have a save atmosphere to talk about whatever they want.

Sister Caroline

Sister Caroline is from the Diocese of Kumbo, Cameroon (Central Africa). Together with her convent she is giving education in three schools for the underprivileged children of their society. There are 200 to 600 young people a year, and they are 10 to 20 years old. The convent has a choir where the sisters are singing for money and collecting money for the children.



The Austrian group

Barbara Karner, our group leader



She lives in Vienna, is 25 years old and now working for the "KJ-The CATHOLIC Youth" in Austria. In her free time she loves to play the flute, to sing and dance and to spend time with her band: SEM VERGONHA. Their music and her friends in the band enrich her life a lot. In university she studied development studies with a focus on Latin America, as well as Spanish and Catholic Theology. At the age of 18 she decided to spend one year in Guatemala to work in an indigenous

home in the zone 16. This experience strongly influenced her personality, her world-view and deepened her love for this continent. In 2008 she participated at the DKA-„intercambio“ (exchange) in Brazil (Goiania). There again she even fell more in love with the Latin-American culture, she learned Portuguese, something about Liberation Theology, Brazilian youth culture, and this strong holistic commitment for the engagement for a better world.

Nadine Petrea (Didi)

Didi, our lovely Viennese girl, is 23 years old. Currently she is studying environment and biological resource management. Together with Silia she is guiding a children group where they have regular meetings and do camps every year in summer and winter time.



Eva Anger



Eva is 27 years old and currently lives in Vienna, where she works and studies. She studies socio-economics and she really loves her studies and the social and economical context it offers her. Apart from studying she works as a volunteer at the human right organisation FIAN. She has already been once in Brazil (Northeast, Fortaleza) in a small Fishers village, where she was teaching in a school for tourism (she originally worked in this sector). She taught mostly kids and young adults and she very much enjoyed this new experience, working with this kids and young adults and sharing her knowledge and experience with them. She therefore spoke already a bit Portuguese before this journey – which was very important, as nearly no one apart from the international group spoke any English.

Teresa Hirschmann

Teresa is 20 years old and lives in Graz, a City in the South-East of Austria. There she studies civil engineering, because she really likes maths and all kinds of buildings. She loves (almost) all kinds of sports, especially football and Hip-hop dancing. So she hopes to get new inputs in Brazil. Since she was born a very important part of her life has been the church, so there she grew up with a lot of great people and great models. She tries to do the same for this generation so she dedicated herself to children and youth work. This is the reason why she wanted the exchange with other youth workers.



Theresia Dummer

Theresia is 29 years old and lives in Innsbruck, a small town in the mountain area of Austria. Her profession is actually dressmaking, but right now she is working in a project where young people are working in different kind of handcrafts and trying to find out what they want to work later on. Because of that she was really interested in the living reality of young people in Brazil.



Franziska Scheicher



She is 23 years old and lives in Carinthia, in the south part of Austria, near the border to Italy. She studies education sciences (pedagogy) at the University of Klagenfurt. She also works for the "Katholische Jungschar". In her spare time she plays the trumpet and she has tried to play the song "Girl from Ipanema", her favourite song. She also enjoys biking in the mountains &

she is interested in other countries and cultures.

Heidi Lang



Heidi is also from Austria, 22 years old and lives in Vienna, the capital of Austria, where she is studying geography and history at the "University of Vienna". Her biggest hobby is the work with kids and young people. In her parish she organizes groups for kids and young people, who meet regularly and she also organizes camps at summer. The "Jungschar", which is the organization for children in the catholic church in Austria, plays an important role in her life and she puts a lot of work into it as chairwoman of the the "Jungschar" in her diocese. Another hobby of her is geocaching. It's searching a treasure with a GPS. She really likes hiking and searching for treasures is like a bonus that makes it extra cool.

Maria Hochholzer

Maria lives in Upper Austria, in Linz which is near the capital Vienna. She is 30 years old and she is working for the Catholic Youth in Linz. She is responsible for big youth events (e.j. <http://www.72h.at>) and for development policy. She really enjoys travelling in other countries and cultures. She has already been visiting some countries like India, Tanzania, China and many European countries. She is also very interested in other cultures.



Silia Koschat



Silia is from Vienna, Austria. She is currently 22 years old, has a bachelor degree business administration and started her master studies in international management. She is a curious person and enjoys travelling a lot! She has already been to a lot of places in the world like China, Israel, North America and in Europe. In her spare time she loves to play volleyball, especially on a beach court. Apart from that she really enjoys working with children, which is the reason why she became a group leader in a catholic youth organisation. There she works with her children's group

on a weekly basis and she is also organizing camps in the summer and winter for them.

Marlies Stockner

Marlies was born in Styria, a part in the southeast of Austria. Now she lives in Vienna. She is 33 years old and studied pedagogy. After she finished her studies, she started working as a social consultant for refugees for some years. Since 2009 she works with unemployed young people, aged 17 to 21. She helps them to find a job and solve other problems (problems with parents, money, living,...). To compare her work with youth work in Brazil is very interesting for her. She wants to get to know new methods for the work with young people. Her hobbies are hiking, cooking, climbing, Yoga and dancing Flamenco.



Sandra Fiedler



Sandra is 25 years old and she is working for the Katholische Jungschar (Catholic Children Organisation) in Vienna as an educational officer – she teaches adolescents how to work pedagogical valuable with groups of children in the parishes in and around Vienna. Next to that she is a student to become a teacher in the subjects history, politics, philosophy, psychology and German. Regarding freetime activities she loves music and sports. She can play the guitar (good), cajon (fair enough) and flute (not that professional...), likes to sing and tries to teach herself how to play the piano. She likes snowboarding and skiing a lot and during the winter she works part time as a snowboard teacher. In her parish she leads a youth group (they are around 18 years old now – she leads this group since they were 8 to 9 years old), prepare youth liturgy and (how could it be different) plays the guitar and sings in worships.

Time Table

Date	Route	by	Specials, Quotes and Stuff
June 29 th (Sa)	Vienna/ Munich → Istanbul	✈	We were supposed to meet Theresia at the airport but... "They took me somewhere – I have no idea where to" (Theresia)
June 30 th (Su)	Istanbul → Sao Paulo	✈	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 hours to go • Lots of entertainment • Rain in Brazil ☺ • Night in a hotel and get to know some people • Meet many many people (Internationals and some Brazilians)
July 1 st (Mo)	Sao Paulo → Goiania	✈	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet people again (other Brazilians) • Busy at the airport: changing money, buying SIM cards, giving back double boarding passes, singing and chatting and nearly missing the flight: Get to know "Brazilian time" ☺ • Heartwarming welcome with a huge poster especially for our group • Night in a nunnery • First contact with Brazilian food – they really love rice, beans and sugar!



July 2 nd (Tu)	Goiania → Goias	Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgot Sister (Cameroon) thanks to the lack of a counting system (beside the Austrians) • Austrian expectation to the bus trip: calm and peaceful, some looking out of the window, some talking to your neighbor, some reading... BUT: Five minutes on the bus and the Brazilians start to escalate – music, dancing and singing for three hours ☺
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backpacks are really useful on dirt tracks, suitcases not (Maria-Elena (El Salvador) learned that)!
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July 9 th (Tu)	Goias → Goiania	Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our first goodbye at the monastery • A pushcart was needed to carry all our stuff back up to the bus • Picture break with Goianias skyline • We can't remember anything else because we were sleeping all the time
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July 12 th (Fr)	Goiania → Sao Paulo	✈	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of the first part of our LernEinsatz and nice farewell ritual at the parking area • Funny and loud group on tour ☺ • Elderbar (Colombia) tried to carry a knife in his hand luggage, Sagar (India) was called in an announcement, Sister (Cameroon) meets another sister, playing musical chairs with airplane seats – lots of excitement
July 23 th (Tu)	Sao Paulo → Rio de Janeiro	✈	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official ending of our LernEinsatz – off to the World Youth Day (or some other places) • Marcelo (Brazil) was really excited to see the pope and let the whole airplane know
July 29 th (Mo)	Rio de Janeiro → Sao Paulo	Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving the chaos • Minimized group meets at the bus terminal (the days before more and more people left) • Thanks to steward Sagar (India) everyone was able to find his/her seat and place for the luggage • Exchanging stories of the last weeks – "How many hearts did you break?"
July 31 th (We)	Sao Paulo → Istanbul	✈	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God we were allowed to check in two bags per person – nearly everybody used it • Having people around speaking German again was a little bit weird (half Styria went back home with us) • Selina (Ghana) wasn't allowed to enter the country and had to stay at the airport in Istanbul for the night, the Austrian group went to a hotel (breakfast at 4.30 am!!!)
August 1 st (Th)	Istanbul → Vienna/ Munich	✈	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed feelings about our return to Austria (some were happy to come back, some wanted to go back to Brazil immediately, some both) • Miracle: All of our bags, backpacks, suitcases arrived with us, nothing got lost in the whole journey!

(Sandra Fiedler & Silia Koschat)

LernEinsatz "Song"

1.

Our Austrian group met at the airport
 Saturday night
 happy and anxious to take the 7:45
 flight
 to Istanbul we departed
 where we picked up Theresia
 so finally the LernEinsatz could get
 started

2.

First step: a really long ride in the air
 13 hours to go
 to reach Sao Paulo
 and be finally there
 in Brazil some internationals joined us
 after a very nice welcome
 we escaped the rain in a very small bus

Chorus:

We travelled a lot
 each day to new places
 the names we forgot
 but remembered the faces
 of the people we met there
 and after some time
 that we spent together
 we felt really fine

3.

The group got bigger day by day
 while we went to Goias for one week to
 stay
 On the way to get there
 we almost left sister back in a church
 but luckily we stayed together
 and all of us got a party bus perch

Chorus:

We travelled a lot
 each day to new places
 the names we forgot
 but remembered the faces
 of the people we met there
 and after some time
 that we spent together
 we felt really fine

4.

After a week in the monastery
 no one could feel solitary
 even as we were split up in host families
 we still felt as one group
 out of nine different countries

Chorus:

We travelled a lot
 each day to new places
 no more names we forgot
 and remembered the faces
 of the people we met there
 and time after time
 that we spent together
 we felt more than just fine

5.

A first farewell was followed by a new
 welcome
 in Sao Paulo where everybody got a new
 mum
 and for the next eleven days
 We learned about the youth
 in many different ways

Chorus

We travelled a lot
 each day to new places
 no more names we forgot
 and remembered the faces
 of the big hearts we met there
 and all through the time
 that we lived together
 we felt more than just fine

6.

Now that we know each other for ages
 the sad part was to say goodbye in
 stages
 because our paths went separate ways
 but we will never forget those wonderful
 days

Chorus

We experienced a lot
 at many different places.
 Now we'll create a new world
 and remember the faces
 of the friends we got there.
 And all upcoming times
 we'll work on together
 with widened confines
 FOREVER! ☺

Sandra Fiedler & Silia Koschat

Introduction Days (Goiás Velho)

Our own logo

Aurisberg (also called Bergi) designed the logo which accompanied us during the whole exchange. It shows a nest with a lot of different colours that portray the multiplicity of cultures during the exchange. Every one that comes out of his/her continent, country , community , home , or the own nest brings a wealth of information to share with the other young people with other realities , other cultures to jointly transform the world and make it the best possible, juster and more humane . But leaving our nest is often not easy because this asks us to leave our *comfort zone* in order to experience other points of view, other cultures, other ways of thinking and believing.



Even with all the challenges and risks the bird (=me) wants to leave and experience other worlds but then also return to his/her nest. The return after the experience makes us more mature, more aware of the realities and more committed with the "causes" we believe in. The movement when we leave our nest and then come back makes us aware about its colour, richness , its plurality from the perspective of the various colours that we have been painting together in search for peace and another possible world. (Barbara Karner)

Getting to know each other – what is it to be young?

The first day started with a Morning Prayer where we were thinking and dreaming about the slogan "Another world is possible". We drew paintings about our feelings about this exchange programme (intercambio) and then we split in groups and shared our experiences about our paintings. At the end of the prayer we got our "Missao Aprender"-T-Shirts – a connecting symbol of our group.



In the morning session we tried to get to know each other using different methods. At the beginning the following question was raised: What does it mean to be a young person? All of us tried to answer this question for himself/herself and so we came up with lots of different pictures of young people (e.g. protagonist, pressure, full of ideas/ideals, hope). The results have been written on the blackboard and they have been translated into Portuguese, Spanish and English.

Here some of us already started to think it might have been useful, if we would have had studied harder Portuguese at home ...

Another method was splitting the groups by different coloured strips. Anyone who chose the same color was part of the same group. After a common group activity we were talking about our personal life (describing main facts and experiences) and about the question: What is it to be a young person in my country?

One fact that has been shocking for me was a conversation with Maria Helena from El Salvador. She described the situation of young people in her country. In El Salvador there are quite powerful youth gangs who force people to pay them protection money. Young people are recruited in the age of 12 or 13 years. Sometimes these young people have to commit a murder to be part of the gang. Girls who want to participate are often raped by the male leaders. I recognized that the conditions for youth work are totally different between Austria and e.g. El Salvador (Latin America).



In the afternoon we were discussing in groups about youth and its problems. All groups were presenting their results in a different way: demonstration – problems of youth were shown on sheets, tree which is full of problems, dancing with colored strips, planting seeds, pantomime, song, etc.

(Maria Hochholzer)

Country presentations

One afternoon we spent listening and watching the amazing presentations of the countries of all the participants. Our group was composed of 9 countries. South Africa, Ghana, Cameron, India, Guatemala, El Salvador, Columbia, Brazil and Austria. Abongwe started with South Africa, she told us a lot of her ethnic tribe where everybody has a "click" in his name and Selina showed us the typical clothes from Ghana. A lot of our group members had or at least tried to bring typical clothes with them. Kiki was forbidden to bring traditional clothes of women from Guatemala. This was the first moment I recognized that travelling is not that easy for all the people in the world.



Music is a good way to express your feelings, so our singer and guitar player Eldarbar sang us the song "Colombia tierra querida", one of his favorite songs. Our host country Brazil surprised us with a very creative presentation of their country: A poem, dances, capoeira and two stories of the origin of their flag.



(Teresa Hirschmann)

From that day one, we were lucky enough to listen to Elderbars' songs every day, especially to "La Juventud es cua! semilla" ☺

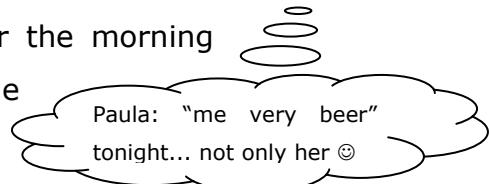
Experiences

During our stay in Goiás Velho all of our group members had the chance to choose to visit one of the following experiences. But before we left for our experiences we had an early morning prayer in the monastery, where Maria introduced an event from Upper Austria where she was one of the main organizers of "Sei in deinem Element" – "Be in your element". The four elements: fire, water, earth and air were introduced. Every group member became a yellow bracelet where the four elements are imprinted. It should serve as a symbol of our connection, so that we can share our common goals within the missão aprender and above it.



Terra: meu corpo
Água: meu sangue
Ar: meu alimento
Fogo: meu espirito

Some of the group members were a bit late for the morning prayer or still looked quite tired in the morning – the reason for this might be the "FICA – Festival" (international Film festival) with live music, workshops and loads of dancing (Eva Anger).



Acampamento (camp)

The "acampamento" and as well the "assentamento" belongs to a social mass movement in Brazil, the MST (*Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais sem Terra*) which is a movement of agricultural workers without their own land. It was formed by rural workers and other people who want to fight for a land reform and against injustice and social inequality in rural areas. The MST became a national movement in 1984 through occupation of latifundios (large landed estates). The main aims are to fight

for access to the land for poor workers, for a land reform in Brazil and awareness

rising for social issues like unequal income distribution, land possession and racism. Over more than two decades, the movement has led more than 2.500 land occupations, with about 370.000 families that today settled on 7.8 million hectares of land that they won as a result of the occupations. Currently there are about 900 acampamentos with about 150.000 families all over Brazil.

Our small group (Marlies, Teresa, Didi, Eva, Franziska and Elder) visited the acampamento *Don Eugenio* near Goiás Velho, where currently approximately 30 families with 15 children are living. We



stayed there for 1 ½ day and lived with the families. The camping, which was founded about four years ago, is situated next to the main road. This part of the land belongs to the government – it is not the land they are hoping to get in the future through their occupation, but meanwhile they are staying there, with the permanent fear of being driven away. All of the families are staying in their own tent, which is pretty basic; it is built on wooden sticks with a tarpaulin. There is no floor; they are living on the clay soil. There is no electricity, when it gets dark, they use candles and flashlights. Even though living in a situation like this must be very frustrating and hard, they furnished and decorated their tents quite charmingly with old furniture and used creativity to make their houses more livable. The men work at a farm close by, which we visited the other morning. They are cultivating animals (chicken, pigs) and vegetables (including sugar cane) for their own use at the acampamento.

The women are staying at home and doing some household chores and crocheting. They are selling their crochet work. We had a big dinner at night with riche feijão, chicken and cabbage, for which they worked very hard. At night we had a campfire, where we sang and danced and shared some of our countries traditions. The kids, and not just them enjoyed the game "tirar la cadeira" very

much. The next morning we went to the farm San Francisco close by, where they have a lease running. We had the possibility to help and milk the cows, but even though some of us are from the country side, we all failed pitifully... We also visited another place where they make wooden furniture, mostly tables and chairs for sale.

We enjoyed our stay there very much; it was a profound experience for all of us. The families worked very hard to welcome us so heartily – it was very difficult to depart again. The goodbye was very tearful, but this experience will stay in our hearts and minds forever. (Eva Anger)

Assentamento

The second small group visited "the next step" in the MST fight for land - an "assentamento" about half an hour from the camp. Selina, Kiki, Sagar, Silia, Hélia, Abongwe and Sandra were accompanied by Waldeir, who made it possible to communicate



with the farmers and to let them tell us their story. We spent one and a half days on a farm - and visited others as well - which was built on governmental ground with financial support as well. The farmer told us, how the process worked: After some years in a camp about 40 of the families there got the offer from the government to buy a piece of land on credit. They got some seed money to buy the land and build a farm on it, that they now have to pay back in fair installments. The families worked close together to build up all the 40 farm houses within two years so they could cultivate the land and live on its production. The solidarity within the families is both exemplary and necessary. So they bought some agricultural equipment like a milk cistern to use together. Our host showed us his farm on which he grows manioc/tapioca, lemons, acerola and lots of other fruits. They have cows as well and he let us try to milk them - an attempt we had lots of fun with, and the farmer as well as you can imagine :)

In the evening we played lots of games, learned to count in many different languages and grew together as a group. We won't forget this wonderful experience and will hold the farmers in high esteem for their courage and power of endurance. (Sandra Fiedler)

Popular pharmacy

None of us Austrians went to these experiences. But people who went there loved it a lot. They have been shown a lot of plants for producing traditional Brazilian (indigenous) medicine.

Basis Christian community

On the first time the big group was split and we started our trip to the basis community of lovely Katiuska, who was the translator from Portuguese to Spanish. We had an exciting road trip on a non-paved dusty road with a lot of big holes in it, and first we visited some families in



an "assentamento" area. They told us about their fight for their rights on land and housing, and then they showed us their farm and we could try to squeeze sugar-juice out of the sugarcane – sooo sweet! After that we got some delicious traditional food at another house and the there I got the best passion fruit I've ever tasted!

After that we went to Katiuskas house and split up to our host families. It was a good time there because we could rest a little bit and relax (the last days were quite busy). Then we helped the children and young people a little bit to clean the chapel and the for the "festa junina" – and afterwards we found out that they actually staged it a second time just for us – because June passed by already!

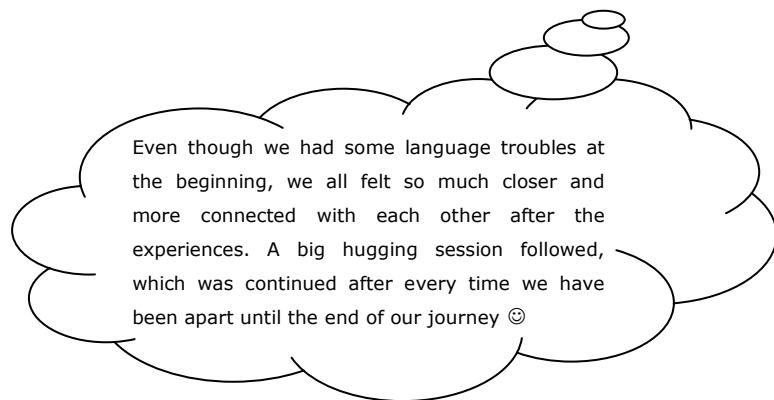
It was very fascinating that all these little volunteers did the cleaning and preparations almost completely on their



own, and after the mass we were invited to dance the typical quadrille with them (the girls in typical clothing and the boys also dressed up nicely), it was so much fun!



On the last day we visited a house of literature in Itaberai, a kind of museum with a beautiful garden in the backyard. (Theresia Dummer)



Workshops & Analysis

Youth condition analysis with Lourival (04.07.2013)

Lourival, the head of the new formed "Cajueiros", has been working in the youth field since over 20 years now. He explained us the scientific definition of "Youth" and their social and historical process.

Definitions of Youth can be seen in a biological, psychological, physical, social or cultural way.

The definition about the age of youth is essentially determining youth rights, youth organizations and political programs for youth:



- 15-29 Brazil
- 15-34 European
- 15-40 Asia

There are **specific paradigms** for the period of youth:

- to secure the time of youth as a special lifetime period
- education and work: youth is the time of preparation for society
- youth has the potential to start a revolution, to take responsibility for the questions of society, they are the actors of transformation
- to keep the rights of the youth

Youth is not natural, it's a concept

The postmodern time is a difficult one, it's giving big influence on youth. Everybody is free to do what they want and consumption has a big influence. Everybody wants to have more and more.

Because of social media people have to present themselves, to express and to show the world who they are. Young people who can't participate on this virtual social life feel excluded, disadvantaged, frustrated and are in danger of suicide.

The poor young people don't have the chance to participate especially in case of consumption and social media life.

How makes youth itself visible?

Young people make themselves visible in social medias (facebook, twitter, google,...): videos, posts, art.

Nowadays there is the possibility to be online and connected 24 hours a day. Social Medias are platforms for the young, intelligent, critical ones but also for the aggressive and intolerant ones. Social Media give the possibility to activate critical thoughts and were an important instrument for protests. There is a wide gap between the ones who do have access to social media and the ones who don't have.

Concerning the body awareness we can notice a fitness trend in the last years. In Brazil youth is a marginalized group, they don't have a lobby.

Violence and safe life

The problem of violence in Brazil: Young people, especially poor black male ones who are living in suburban areas, are seen from the upper-class as potentially criminal and violent. They are often seen as a big danger. But for the young it's more dangerous to get killed themselves.

Apart from that women and men are treated differently in Brazil. The male ones mostly are the aggressors, and the female ones are the victims.

There exists institutionalized violence from the police against marginalized groups such as feminists, homosexuals, ethnical minorities. Another form of institutionalized violence happens in the families.

People, who are fighting for a more equal society in Brazil and transform themselves in groups, can get criminalized. Everything what is critical about the economical progression is seen as a problem.

Religion and youth

- gives youth safety, meaning of life, a connection to other people, a knowledge about what is holy and important in life
- a place, where youth can ask questions, is in good hands, can connect, can experience something higher, can find appreciation
- religion is a place of socialization and participation
- there are different movements in the catholic church of Brazil (such as Pentecostal churches -> very material: the more money you give, the more you believe, conservative movements...)
- there is more commercialization of religion in the last years. They work with marketing instruments: T-Shirts,...

(Theresia Dummer & Marlies Stockner)

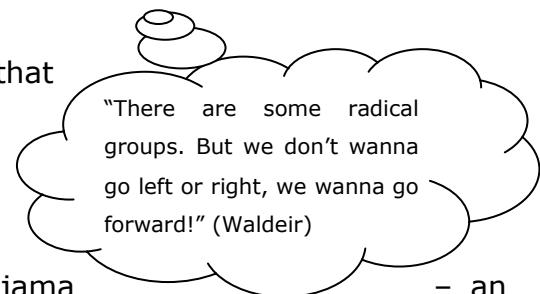
Protests in Brazil

During our time in Brazil we got in contact with the recent protest movements. We heard that the actual protests are the result of a historical development. They are the reaction of the people concerning the increasing prices, taxes, institutionalized violence, missing political reforms and corruption. One of the results of the protests is the new anti-corruption-law. We also could see peaceful protests of young people on the street.



A shocking information we heard was, that the government closed Facebook for a few hours, when the protests were starting on the 17th of June. The catholic protest movements are very calm; some movements think that there will only be a change of the inequality in society due to act violent. Protests are nothing new, it's a historical process in social movements. The problem nowadays is, that the police is acting very aggressive during the protests.

There is a lot of hope from the Brazilians that these protests are the beginning of a change in the Brazilian society.



We got told something about the Francis Fukujama – an US-American political scientist and his new liberalism theory: he thinks that everything is ready, we just have to put the people into the right positions, we have to include people, not to go on the street is the right solution but acting organized in a different kind of way (Theresia Dummer).

Social economics – conjuncture analysis with Victor

Victor graduated in law with the focus on rural law and works now as a scientist and lector at university. He showed us the "social conjuncture analysis", a method that can be used to divide a problem into its single pieces to find a way for solving this problem. You start to deconstruct the problem and ask questions: Why does there a certain kind of social problem/phenomenon exist?



Why did it come up? We must try to find out what kind of structures are behind this problem. There are conjunctural topics and structural ones. The conjunctural ones are variable; the structural ones (for example the phenomenon that there are always poor and rich people in society) are permanent. Certain conflicts are influencing society. When there are social conflicts in society because of structural problems, you have to think about which tactics you can use for a change (short-term) and which strategies (long-term). What has to be changed that a change is possible? Who is standing behind the conflicts (presidents, governments, economical unions...)? Which facts have been important that society could have changed in the past time? Social changes are only happening when there are political changes. There are so many different groups of interests, so it is difficult to analyze a social problem.

Conjuncture analysis:

1. Actual problem in the society: A problem that characterizes the reality of the society.

2. Important scenarios: Where takes the problem place (on the street, in an institution,...)?

3. Actors: What people, organizations, parties, etc. are acting? Institutions, churches, industries, unions or societies, single persons?

4. Power structures/relations:

What are the cooperation's, relationships, competitions between the included organizations, societies, governments?

5. Conjuncture elements versus structure (permanent) elements: What is the logic behind the structures? Why are the things like they are?

6. Strategies against permanent structures of repression: What solutions can be found to change the problem?



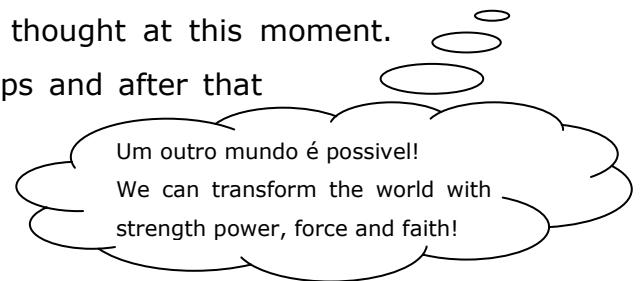
After we got explained the method, we built small groups and tried to deconstruct social problems that are concerning our own countries. Examples of topics that were analyzed by the groups: violence against youth, situation of refugees, elections and political power, corruption,

censorship in social media, soccer world cup, military struggles and social situation of the inhabitants.
 (Theresia Dummer & Marlies Stockner)



Reflection

Our whole journey was about seeing, understanding, reflecting and when we are all back in our countries spread our experiences. We don't want that when we arrive at home the experience is finished, so for that reason there will be a platform where we can do an exchange with a lot of different topics. So after our experience we made in Goias we tried to remember, write down and shared our feelings, special moments and everything we thought at this moment. First everybody for him, in the language groups and after that presented the summary to the whole group.



A few thoughts we shared in the Austrian group:

- giving without expecting anything back
- not everything is granted
- parallel in the way of work with the youth
- Brazilian hospitality, dancing and hugs
- the danger of being young in other countries

(Teresa Hirschmann)

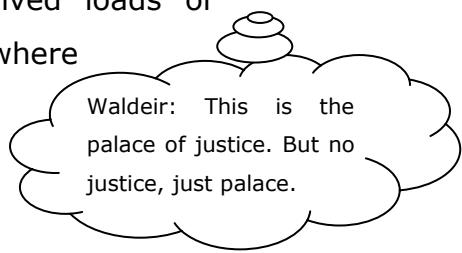
Brasilia

All of us were very excited as we heard that we will have the chance to finally see the city so many people speak about – the capital of Brazil: Brasília. We made a day trip by bus there, starting from Goiânia quite early in the morning round 8am or so.... Brazilian watches go different, than the ones in Austria ☺

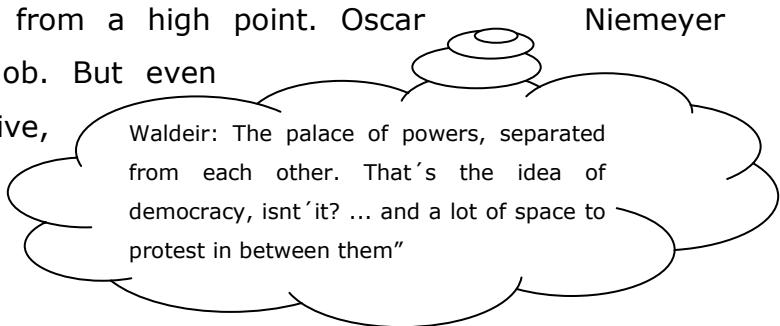


Our first stop was the CNBB – the national Brazilian bishop conference. It was a big house with many offices and we met some of the people who are responsible for the current youth campaigns. We are all people from the base, so most of us found the CNBB quite bureaucratic.

The next stop was the Caritas in Brasília. It serves as the Headquarters. There are only 15 employed by the Caritas and 12.600 people working in over 50 regions all over Brazil as volunteers. As the president of the Caritas has to be a bishop, the progress is sometimes quite slow. The Vice president is usually a woman. The topic of 2013 is the right to food. Last year the youth was their main topic. We had an interesting talk and received loads of presents: brochures, a flag and even a CD. Everywhere where we went, we received so many things, not just presents, but more important a hearty welcome and a hug and of course loads of food.



Afterwards we visited the city centre – the church was quite impressive, especially from the inside. We all had to try out the whispering gallery, which lead to quite some laughter. We drove past all the important buildings and were lucky enough to see the city from a high point. Oscar Niemeyer and Lúcio Costa did a great job. But even though Brasília is very impressive, the buildings, the architecture, to me it seemed a bit lifeless, just like a museum. (Eva Anger)



Visits of social institutions

IPJ – São Paulo

This was our second day with the new host-family in São Paulo. In the morning we had breakfast with the whole family and we got to know each other. Then we went with our host-mother to Deborah's house to go to the IPJ. It was a hard way there for an Austrian girl, because she was ill and we had to climb up a hill. At the IPJ they began to present the whole IPJ-team. For example: Marcos Dantas: He studied



Public Policy Management and was a coordinator of the PJ Ferraz de Vasconcelos. He was also an advisor of the ministerial for youth and religion in the Cathedral São Paulo. Now he works with issues of Public Policy Advisor, Methodic of Youth, faith and politic, citizenry,... and Renato Souza de Almeida: He studied social science and did some research in „Youth and Participation“. He teaches „social and youth“ of the postgraduate youth of the world. His issues Public Policy



Advisor for Youth ministry, participation of the youth in the real life, history and methodology of youth, faith and politic,... Then the lunch followed and after that we got together a circle in the garden. We connected our hands with a string. With a song we went upstairs to the room where we are working. Then the presentation of mobilization, school-system, youth violent and human rights

started. The mobilization began because of economic and politically problems. At first the mobilization began calm (no vandalism) but then the police attacked the people and so people were angry, other people who didn't want a mobilization supported then the mobilization too. So it got very big and strong. The most important reasons for the Brazilian people were that they wanted free pass movement against rising rates and the whole infrastructure round the world cup of soccer. The school-system is also very difficult in Brazil. Public schools do not

have good quality of teachers. The government doesn't invest much money in the schools. Private schools are better, but most families have not enough money (average income R\$ 668,00) to pay a Private School. The Basic education (primary school) begins at the age of 6-17. But many people cannot read or write in Brazil. They have English in school for 6 years but they cannot speak or understand simple phrases. For example youngest daughter of my host-family was 12 years old but didn't understand us when we spoke English to her. There are many other problems: School is seen as a space to keep children and young people. But not training for citizenship or access to educational and cultural good of the town or the country. There is also a lot of violence in the schools and the schools have a problem of keeping harmony.(Franziska Scheicher.)



Social Center Santa Luzia – Pároquia Santa Luzia

(<http://www.cssantaluzia.org.br/>)

This social centre, which is a Dom Bosco house, is located in the North East of São Paolo and is a centre where children from 6-13 and teenagers from 14-18 years are welcomed. They have different ongoing projects with the main goal of supporting and educating children, teenagers, adolescents and families with a difficult background, mainly of social exclusion. They try to provide human, religious, ethical and social education. Children and teenager can come there in their spare time and visit different courses, workshops, sport classes. When staying here, they receive one free meal, either lunch or dinner. The centre offers different courses, which are free of charge, for example for teenagers from 14-18 there are IT-courses (type writing, basic computer skill training) or administrative trainings. After graduation the students receive a certificate.

Or the CCA (Centros para crianças e adolescentes) is for children from 6-15 where six teachers try to teach voluntarily Portuguese, English or other subject in a less formal way with different games, sports and so on. This centre also serves as a day care centre, as a space for children and teenagers where they can hang out in their free time, while their parents are at work.

Currently there are 600 kids in this centre on a daily basis. The centre is financed partly by the city hall and partly by other private sponsors. The centre is open to

the entire community and is for free. Families mostly donate some food or basic utensils like toilette paper (Eva Anger).

Casa Viviane do Santos (woman house)



Casa Viviane is a house where women from the age of eighteen can go to when they have suffered domestic violence in São Paulo. Currently seven women are working there. Kelly is the coordinator of the women's house and she is also part of IPJ. Further there are social workers and lawyers who work directly with these women in workshops, or have conversations with them where they explain and inform them about their rights and support them to defend those rights, guide them and give them psychological support. Casa Viviane

works with and supports women at the time when they are suffering violence and trying to leave their homes. It is only open during the day; it is not a house where women can stay overnight. There are only a few shelters in São Paulo and they are not directly connected with the Casa Viviane. They also neither work with the children of the victims nor with girls who are younger than 18.



Casa Viviane is a NGO, sponsored by the government who provides money, and by private sponsors who are providing the space. It works on a very low profile - mostly only by mouth propaganda - so that the husbands cannot find their wives.

There is a very high rate of violence against women in Brazil and in São Paulo, every 25 seconds a woman is beaten in São Paulo. The police does not take calls with the topic of domestic violence very serious and rarely helps. The name of the place goes back to a woman, who was called Viviane do Santos, 23, and was beaten to death by her husband. She died in a hospital. The reason of

death was "diabetes". Her husband was never charged. The existing picture of a family is still very conservative. The husband works and the woman is seen as his property – as a doll, which stays at home and does the homework. Abortion is generally forbidden, only in some extreme cases of violence and rape, or if the mother's health is in danger an abortion is officially supported. The safer sex program is pretty widespread and well organized in Brazil, as there is a high rate of HIV infection. Only the church is obviously against it – because it is against all kinds of contraception. Also the CNBB does not mention safer sex in its program at all; they see any kind of contraception as abortion. (Eva Anger)

CEU (centro educacional unificado)

The CEU is an educational and cultural centre, meaning that the public school is combined with a cultural centre, where pupils can practice sports, or participate in a theatre group, dance or music workshops after the regular class. All the CEUs have a theatre, a playground, swimming pools, a library and a telecenter. The pupils can spend their entire day in the CEU and all the activities are free of charge. This special centre was a project from the city hall of São Paulo. Currently there are 45 CEUs in São Paulo with about 120.000 pupils, which are mostly situated in the periphery of S.P.. Our group visited one CEU in the east part of São Paulo (Guaianases), which is one of the biggest ones with 2000 pupils. During the summer break in July they have a special week, where they offer excursion, workshops, sports, visits to museums and exhibitions. Within a CEU there are different types of school for different age groups:

- CEI (Centro de Educação Infantil) for children from 0-3 years
- EMEI (Escola Municipal de Educação Infantil) for pupils from 4-6
- EMEF (Escola Municipal de Ensino Fundamental) for pupils from 6-12
- ETEC which is a technical school



The main problem of the CEU is the limitation of space, not all the kids can get a place at the CEU, so therefore they have to turn to a regular public school, where they don't have this extra cultural offer.

Counseling for pupils - Sala de atendimento

When pupils experience any kind of violence (physical, domestic, sexual, psychological) they can turn to a social worker. They try to make a case, if they can and find a legal way to fight against the aggressors. Last year they had about 3000 pupils coming to their office (in the CEU, east zone) for guidance or information. All in all they had about 900 cases, from which 51 were brought to court – they were able to make a case there, because there was visible violence involved. (Eva Anger)

Centro Cultural da Juventude (São Paulo)

(<http://ccjuve.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/>)

In the morning we visited the biggest and the only public youth centre of São Paulo: Centro Cultural da Juventude (CCJ). It was founded in 2006 by the Municipal General office of Culture. The aim is to provide young people a welcome place to stay and help them to develop their own culture.



A short description of the youth centre:

- 8.000 square meters of modern architecture
- Freely accessible music recording studio (incl. editing videos and sounds)
- Shared library
- Amphitheatre
- Different rooms for workshops and projects
- Gallery for exhibitions
- Large living area (e.g. chessboard at the floor,...)
- Free access to internet (computers are available)

We got an interesting insight into the music recording studio which is the only music studio in the whole city with free access. That means that young people can use facilities and software for free and they are supported by technical staff to produce their own music. Interested young music bands are supposed to stick to a time schedule. Although any kind of music has already been recorded rap music is the most popular music style. While boys prefer using the music recording studio, girls often work on solo music projects or they are part of a

music band. CCJ also offers young people different music workshops: e.g. music production, remix or percussion. In addition to music songs there are music videos produced and broadcasted via internet. For the future CCJ plans to invest in a multimedia



centre.

In the gym hall Ronan instructed a short gym training including warm up and exercises on a gymnastic mat. Finally he showed us a few capoeira moves. Our group and especially the young boys who were there enjoyed it a lot.



After this gym activity we discussed about the objectives and challenges of working with young people, especially in this youth centre. There are five objectives of CCJ:

- I. promoting cultural activities and encouraging artistic activities
- II. passing on information of interest to young people
- III. increasing education, knowledge, opportunities and skills to assist in the social integration of young people
- IV. creating alternatives of leisure and living together
- V. integrating and supporting local initiatives



To achieve its goals, CCJ has developed 11 main programs that consist of 39 projects.

Gender has also been part of the discussion. As mentioned above the music recording studio is mainly used by boys while girls prefer to attend or are attending dance workshops. Typical tasks of women are organizing and coordination tasks. Most of the staff is working as volunteers, only a few persons get paid by the municipality. For black people it is really hard to get a job.

Personally, one fact that impressed me a lot is that everyone is welcome in this



cultural youth centre e.g. youth, homeless people, people from the neighbourhood, anyone who wants to use free internet to do research on different topics, using the library, etc. There is only one rule: It is not allowed to cause

troubles or to consume alcohol or drugs in CCJ. CCJ opens its doors for all people who want to spend time here. (Maria Hochholzer)

Church & Culture

Special moments in the church

Mass with Padre Giraldo in the Monastery (Goiás)

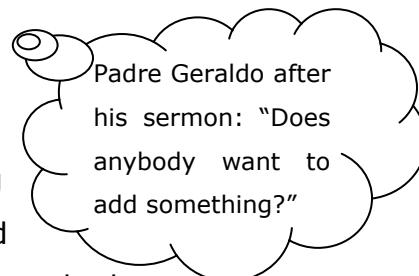
At 8:00 am the group gathered for breakfast. But Brazilian time is not Austrian time so, the actual time was 08:15. After breakfast we went to the church to celebrate the mass as a group. The ambience in the church was wonderful. The church is built like a circle and in the middle is the altar. This set up of the church gave us a feeling of togetherness. The Brazilian way of celebrating mass is highlighted with a lot of breaking bread and a lot of hugs. The service there is very fulfilling. The pastor was amusing and made jokes during the mass. The sign of peace is very impressive. Everyone was sharing hugs with each other. It took a long time to hug the people in the whole church but it is a wonderful feeling to do that. I think for many people it was a communion feeling. A special moment in the church was „to share bread“. We received bread and then got an opportunity to share the bread with everyone in the church by breaking it and sharing it with the people in the church. So everyone became pieces of bread. People told us that every Sunday a family makes the bread for this moment in the church.

Marlies and Eva, told us when we were sitting together as the Austrian group, that they are not so diligent church attendees in Austria, but in Brazil they liked the service very much and they want to continue the kind of service in Austria". (Franziska Scheicher)



Mass again with Padre Giraldo at St. Luzia (São Paulo)

This was the last service we had together. We gathered together as a group with our host families to celebrate this service together. The whole ceremony had a feeling of "we", like a big communion. It was a friendly and warm way of celebrating. They have a big heart for everyone. What was different from Austria was that we prayed with our whole bodies. We all sang and danced together. It was nice to be part of it. God is part of their daily lives. In the middle of the service we had to present our traditional clothes. This was an interesting moment for the host-families to see this. After the service we had lunch and time with the families.



Then a graffiti-workshop started. The group used a large piece of white material to write "Missão apprender" and in the evening we had the last dinner with our host-families. They prepared pizza. It was very good.

(Franziska Scheicher)

Continental dinner and evening (Goiás)

We were very excited about the culture of the different countries, so every country cooked some typical food and after the dinner we showed the group some traditional dances.

The delicious dinner consisted of cooked bananas in a sauce with honey and cinnamon from El Salvador,



Yam from Ghana, a Kaiserschmarrn from Austria, and of course rice with something really spicy from India.



Lets vamos la fiesta!

Lets essen!
vamos

The drinks for this evening were mixed from the Brazilian guys. So from different fruit juices to Caipirinha there was something for every taste.

The Brazilian started with a typical dance from the Indigenes. We Austrians tried to learn the group how to dance "Walzer" and the "Zillertaler Hochzeitsmarsch". Maria Elena showed us in her traditional clothes how to dance Cumbia and even our sister Cathrine could not stand still. Break-dance from Ronan was also part of the program and after the typical dances we all danced (nearly) the whole night to Brazilian rhythms.

(Teresa Hirschmann)



Portuguese Language museum

(<http://www.museulinguaportuguesa.org.br/>)

After surviving our first long ride and not losing any one from the group, we visited the Portuguese Language museum (Museu da Língua da Portuguesa) in the morning. There we watched a short film about the language with lovely poems, too bad that we could not understand all of them, as our Portuguese knowledge were somehow limited... (Eva Anger)

Host families

On our mission, we enjoyed the hospitality of host families for two times. The first family, we met in Goiania. We stayed there three days, in groups of 2 or 3 people at one family. The second time, we lived with a host family was in São Paulo, for more than a week. Both times, it was a completely diverse experience, with completely different families. We also experienced very different family structures: some of us stayed at quite big families where the sisters and brothers stayed at the same place, or some others even had two host dads or mums, others



lived with singles. This made it possible to get to know different kinds of families and how they live together. But what all of our families shared, was the happiness and the joy about having us as guests.

When people let you into their house, they let you be part of their lives. It is a very big thing for them and for the guests too. It is an indescribable feeling, when people welcome you so warmly and let you be part of their family, which is actually a very, very private thing.

By living with the families, we got to know the real Brazilian family-life; a normal tourist would only read of it in his or her tourist guide. Living with the families made it possible for us to experience the normal course of life in Brazil. For a few days, we had Brazilian Moms and Dads, who opened their houses and their

hearts for us. They cared for us, as if we were their own children. We went to do some shopping, we ate together, we prayed together, we lived together and we learned a lot from each other.

It was not always easy, to be pampered all the time. Sometimes you need to do things on your own, to feel, that you are an adult human being who can take care of him/herself. The personal need for privacy and independence on the one hand and the people who are responsible for you on the other hand, don't always fit together. But, looking back to the moments that were difficult, I have to say, that our host families did a really great job. They sent us back home to our real Moms and Dads, well fed and full of new experiences. (Heidi Lang)



São Paulo

Sao Paulo is a city with a population of 12 million people. That's 1.5 times of the population of Austria. When you compare the size, every city in Austria is very small. There are three airports and two big train stations. It's the biggest city in the southern hemisphere and characterized by the diversity of the people there. It's shown by the



different cultures you see all over the streets. We saw street artists especially musicians and the people not just listen to the music they start to dance and have fun.



Because of the size of the city there are a lot of problems, the biggest ones to my host family are the crime and the transport. In Brazil you have to work 44 hours a week and because of the traffic problem in São Paulo it may take you two hours by car to work. Of course you can use the public transportation but it's expensive and you need more time. So in my host family lived three people and they had three cars. Something really interesting are the bumps, there are a lot of them in small streets. Because of the high rate of crime every house and especially public buildings like schools, churches are surrounded by a fence and there is a porter at the entrance.
(Teresa Hirschmann)

Paulista Avenue

São Paulo is known as the biggest economic city of Brazil, with the Paulista Avenue, also known as "Wall street of South America" in the centre. But there are big dissonances. On the one hand at Paulista Avenue there are high buildings with a lot of big companies, shopping-, eating malls, hotels, hospitals and as well the Museu de Arte de São Paulo where some people of our group went. But on the other hand we saw a lot of poverty as well. We sat in a restaurant and children came and asked us if we have food for them because they were hungry.

We also went there by night and saw homeless people sleeping on the street and in tents.

The paulistanos – so are the people living in São Paulo called – showed us a lot. At the day we visited the Paulista Avenue we went to a nice restaurant where the waiters brought us pizza and there I ate the best pizza of my life: Chocolate pizza. But not only this one, there are various sweet pizzas in Brazil. Expect cheese and marmalade or cheese and bananas?!?

(Teresa Hirschmann)



East zone (zona leste)

Currently there are about 3.6 Mio people living in the east zone, which is the most populous and as well the poorest part of São Paulo. 60 % of the fathers of the families have a monthly income of 800 \$. 400.000 people live in Favelas under very poor conditions and 290.000 are analphabets (east zone about 8 % - entire city of São Paulo 4 % of analphabets). It is said, that this is as well the most violent part of the city, where a lot homicides, robberies and other criminal cases happen. This part of the city has a long story of indigenous people, colonization, immigration (Japanese, Italian and Spanish) and migration of works from the North, Northeast and South of Brazil, who were in the search of and hope for more opportunities. They worked manly in the sectors of construction, military and infrastructure. (Eva Anger)

Our last evening in São Paulo

It was time for reflection

This evening was the time for reflection and to say good bye to some of the group members

In groups we talked about things we learned, what was inspiring and what was difficult. What are the suggestions for the next Missao Aprender? After that we discussed it with the whole group.

Examples for things the members of our international group learned:

- Life realities of different marginalized groups (youth, women who have experienced domestic violence, landless people,...)
- Everyday life of Brazilians because of our experience with the host families
- Project and world fields the group members are working in
- Culture in Brazil (music, dances, art, graffiti, food,...)
- Information about the protests, because it was a current issue
- Language: we improved our language-knowledge and learned to communicate without language (dancing, laughing together,...) → still it would have been very very good to study Portuguese up front!!!!
- Different forms of celebrating a mass
- New friendships were formed

Examples for difficulties:

- To organize the big group
- Promptness
- Communication without common language
- The distance between the host families

Suggestions for the next Missão Aprender:

- Time management: not too much program
- More time with youth (workshops, projects,...), not only visiting organizations
- Script or handouts
- More free time



After the reflection the people of the IPJ organized a very nice Good-bye-celebration with mystic and emotional moments for us. At least it was time to say thank you to all our lovely host families. (Marlies Stockner)

Rio de Janeiro

Our last days we spent in Rio de Janeiro at the World Youth Day. Oh my God, looking back on this experience, somehow I am lacking words for describing an event that every single member of our group experienced differently. After all these days at the exchange we became witnesses of the commitment not only of the Brazilian projects we visited but of the social and political compromise of all the participants. Maria Elena- a human rights worker in her Christian Basis community, Elderbar our Columbian creative peace worker, Thiesco the Brazilian National Secretary of the PJ (Pastoral da Juventude), Abongwe and her rich creative approaches towards development etc. etc. etc. We all got inspired by each other's works, new ideas, new approaches, a renewed hope for the CHURCH of the poor...

Coming from this experience to Rio to the WORLD youth day with its massive organization and event character our experiences there were different. The media talked about 3 million youngsters from all over the world gathering in Rio, toSEE THE POPE... Actually for me the whole event was very POPE oriented and reflected the hierarchical church. Wherever HE was people were screaming and shouting, nearly fainting. I strongly missed some things at this event that would have given more sense to it: The presence of the real youth Reality in Brazil, a stronger inclusion of the PJ (Youth Pastoral) and other religious organizations with a social focus, more open dialogue spaces to social and political topics among the pilgrims, and a sunny weather (I won't claim the Organization team in this point ;-)) What was still impressing was how our group managed itself there. Sagar from India and Kike from Guatemala climbed the Cristo Redentor by their own, spent time together without having a language in common OR sister and Selina took pictures of their Street names and whenever they got into a bus they asked the bus driver to get them out exactly there.

Also POPE Francis fascinated me. Whenever he got to non-official places he talked to local people and listened to them. In an encounter with Argentines youth people he said:

"I want to tell you something. What is it that I expect as a consequence of World Youth Day? I want a mess. We knew that in Rio there would be great disorder, but I want trouble in the dioceses!" he said, speaking off the cuff in his native Spanish. "I want to see the church get closer to the people. I want to get rid of

clericalism, the mundane, this closing ourselves off within ourselves, in our parishes, schools or structures. Because these need to get out!"

With his speech I would like to draw a bow back to our exchange: For another possible world we can't accept reality as it is and lay back with a delicious Caipirinha on a sandy beach! As long as people are starving, indigenous people struggling against the sale of their land, youth gangs in El Salvador shooting each other, environmental catastrophes, an increasing gap between the rich and the poor we, especially young people in our world have to get up, make a „mess“ in this current system that produces day by day more inequality.

Thanks to DKA Austria, to IPJ and the CAJUEIROS that widened our horizons and gave us new ideas for our minds and hearts for the realization of our dream „Another possible world“. (Barbara Karner)

