

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Ruth and Saulo de Barros in Brazil

USPG Mission Companions in the Diocese of the Amazon

In their own words

‘We hope that we are seeing the beginning of a partnership between different groups and that by working together, we can change the way people treat the Amazon forest and its people.’ Ruth de Barros, USPG Mission Companion



Brazil factfile

Capital: Brasilia
Languages: Portuguese (official), Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English and Amerindian languages
Religion: Roman Catholic 73.6%, Protestant 15.4%, Other 11%
Export: Coffee, soybeans, wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane, citrus, beef, textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, lumber
Further reading: www.ieab.org.br

USPG in Brazil

USPG has been supporting Projects in Brazil since 1988, and maintains a close relationship with the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil. USPG currently supports 19 Projects in Brazil as well as personnel.

About this Project...

▶ **Target: £34,277 / €38,232 | Project 303**

The city of Belém is in the northern part of Brazil in the Amazon region. It is the capital of the state of Pará and the largest city in the state. It has high levels of illiteracy and infant mortality and low levels of income. Based in Belém, Saulo de Barros was consecrated as the Diocese of the Amazon's first bishop in October 2006. His wife Ruth is a USPG Mission Companion and part of her role is to co-ordinate social action committees. These help people work together to improve their lives and their communities. Young people are taking part in craft workshops and music

projects and women are starting income generation schemes. The church has grown and people understand more about what God's love for them means, practically and spiritually. The indigenous population continues to struggle for their rights to land and the rainforest continues to be exploited. Ruth and Saulo are involved in bringing people together to discuss deforestation and its effect on local people. Ruth feels that the church has been called to play the role of bridge builder in this important debate.

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www.uspg.org.uk/debarros

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0845 273 1701 **071 965 1998** In Ireland
mcp@uspg.org.uk uspg@ireland.anglican.org

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