



Azores

On December 2, 2015, I left Toronto for the Azorean islands located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, between Canada and Portugal. Upon my arrival, I met two pastors of the Portuguese Baptist convention who shared a little about the challenges and their constant prayers to the Lord to send workers to help them. I had already visited one of the nine islands (São Miguel) in 1997 and ministered the gospel in the village of Ribeira Quente.

This time I visited and preached on the island of Faial (church pastored by Pastor Ismael with approximately 30 people), and then I spent four days on the island of St. George in contact with some families who received us to minister the Word of God. There is a small group of Christians who gather in a small parlor in the village of Velas (candles). The island is made up of dozens of villages, where there are no established churches.

- *The Island of Pico, according to information, there is also only a small group that congregates in the largest village, while dozens of other villages do not know the Lord.*
- *On my last day, I met Pastor Thiago, who recently arrived from Lisbon to minister in Angra, the largest city in Terceira Island, for a congregation of 35 people.*
- *Since I moved to the City of Cambridge in Canada, most of my church members were born on the Azorean islands and with this we constantly prayed for the inhabitants of the Azores . Recently I resigned from pastoring in the city and I am leaving for Brazil until the month of July. My prayer is that the Lord may raise Brazilian missionaries, supported by churches in Brazil, sending them to the Azores.*

- The field is vast, the challenges great, but we have the conviction that the Lord wants to free those people from the darkness. Local pastors have volunteered to help with logistics, and I believe the doors to gospel preaching are open in the Azores. Please pray for missions in Azores!*

Azores Islands





Azores



The population of the islands of the Azores (2011)



São Miguel :	138.000
Terceira :	56.000
Faial :	15.000
Pico :	14.000
São Jorge :	9.000
Santa Maria :	6.000
Graciosa :	4.500
Flores :	3.800
Corvo :	430

Approximately
Population - 246.730 mil



There is a ferry that connects to the nearest islands with daily trips (photo left). The farthest islands, the aviation company offers daily flights between the islands. (photo above)

AZORES



São Jorge
Island



Currently, tourism has been part of the economy during the summer May-August besides agriculture and livestock.

Several religious festivals are celebrated with their diversities of patron saints due to a strong dominion of Romanism and its pagan traditions, as well as the occult practice on the beaches of the islands. With this, we can see the presence of religious syncretism among the population.





Graciosa Island

On November 1st, 2017 I felt a calling from the Lord to establish a church in Graciosa Island, Azores – A Island with a population of about 5.000 between Canada and Portugal. On arriving, we met four believers and started a Sunday meeting with them in one of the villages (Praia), while getting to know the locals and build relationships in other villages. A week after we started a home discipleship meeting on Wednesdays in the main village, Santa Cruz and on Saturdays a second home Bible study at Praia with nine people, which turned to be a blessing as we shared the gospel and five of the group had accepted the Lord.

After two months we found a place under renovation for rent downtown Santa Cruz, which was exactly what I was looking for (we could live there and have our church meetings as well). And after many trials to get the place (some local authorities and influential individuals were opposing us to establish the church. Building owners were afraid to rent their places and become ostracized by the community). Finally after a month living in a small room with a microwave as a stove and taking dust of the place on Sundays for the meetings, the landlord closed the deal with us. We moved in and the first

evangelical church had its building! Few weeks after, we had a regular attendance of 15 people. Three had been baptized and the meeting in the other village continued on Saturdays.

My next challenge was to find a ministry that would be available to come and keep the work, as the time for our departure was approaching (March 2018).

In my morning prayers the Lord brought in my mind a missionary from the Wesleyan Methodist Church that I had met in Canada in 1993. I called Moises in Brazil who introduced me to Geraldo, their bishop in Europe. He and pastor Pizano came and by the Lord's providence, the Methodist church had decided to take over the ministry and to send a missionary couple to Graciosa.

The ministry is presently under the leadership of pastor Herculano (Portuguese born from Portugal), helped by his wife Manuela.

“Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them.” Isaiah 42: 10

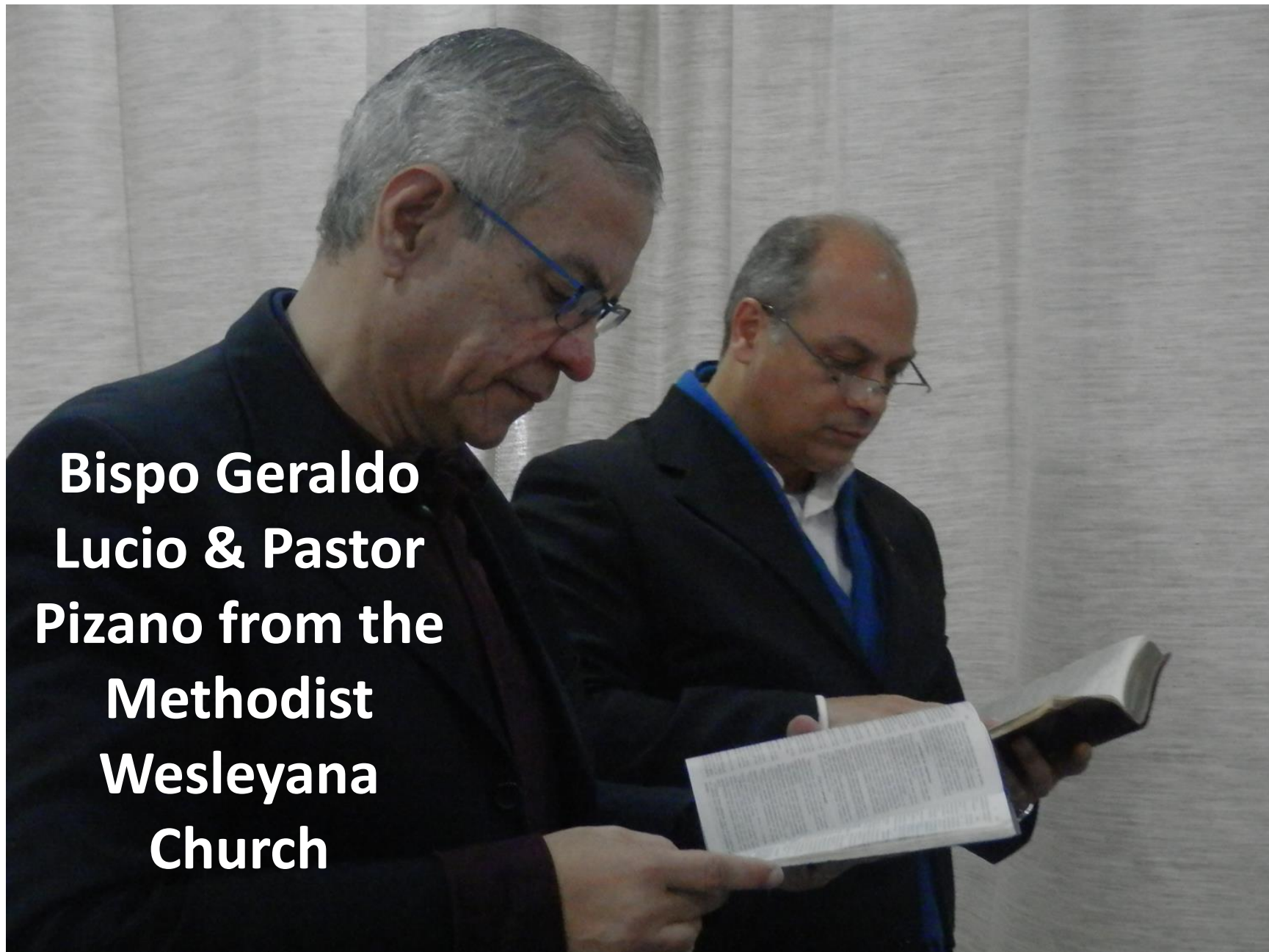
**Inauguration
Sunday
morning
service @
Santa Cruz**

**Lord Jesus be
glorified!**









**Bispo Geraldo
Lucio & Pastor
Pizano from the
Methodist
Wesleyana
Church**

With Bispo Calegari



Pastor Herculano, his wife Manuela and church members





Husband and wife being baptized



Short Trip to São Miguel - 2000

We were invited, me and Gina by a couple from a church in Toronto, to have a vacation in Portugal, on the island of São Miguel. I took several tracts, Bibles, my guitar and some hymns. On the way, the enemy told me, through a person who was traveling with us, saying, "You will not preach the gospel where we are going to stay." I felt a chill at the sound of that voice, but I calmed down without any response. When I arrived, I realized that in the village where we were there was no church based on the Bible teachings, and the people lived under an oppressive spiritual yoke. In the residences, idolatry prevailed, and in some of them it had a room in the house only to keep altars of the images and gods of the region, besides the presence of sorcerers and

witches every day in the beaches of the island practicing their satanic rituals. One night I went to the beach alone and suddenly a young man appeared in the middle of the darkness, introducing himself, began to talk to me, then asked if I would like to go to his house, which I did without objection. After introducing his mother and sisters, he opened the door of a room and showed me a man lying down, extremely thin and pale. The place smelled bad, an odor like a decaying corpse. The young man told me, "This man is my father, he suffers from cancer and is about to die at any moment." I understood then the purpose of having gone to that place.

No one knew I was a pastor and simply invited me to eat something. Following the meal, I asked if they had a Bible and everyone was surprised by the question, but they immediately brought me a huge Bible, part of the house's Areopagus. With the Scriptures in hand, I entered Mr. John's room and there I was filled with shivers because of the oppression present in the place and the dense spiritual darkness that overwhelmed the environment, looking like a huge demonic arsenal, armed against me. However, by divine grace, I was not intimidated. I read a few verses of the Word, explained the reading and asked the question to Mr. John and the others present: "Mr. John, do you want to accept Jesus as your only and sufficient Savior? "The same young man who had invited me into his house now stood up in a rage and told me," My father can not speak in months. Go away from here". I knew of the existence of demons there, using all their evil powers to keep Mr. John from knowing Jesus.

Not giving up, I said to Mr. John, "You do not have to talk, just shake your head." Then I said a very quiet prayer, "Lord Jesus, I accept you in my life ..." I was with my eyes closed and suddenly heard a voice repeating my words three times louder than I and opening my eyes thinking it was Mr. John's son, but to everyone's amazement it was Mr. John himself who accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord of his life. The next day, some young people from the village saw me playing the guitar and singing, they came to where we were. It was about ten teenagers who started to sing with me. That night, we held a service in the place and more than thirty people appeared and many accepted Jesus, among them, the son and the daughters of Mr. John, his wife and others of the neighbourhood. Before we got back, I baptized Mr. John and a week later, Jesus took him. This time the Lord was teaching me to love the Azoreans. Both I and my wife discovered how special they were to Jesus.



Ribeira Quente



