

A visit to my town of Bonito, Jardim

Ted O'Grady
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My name is Ted O'Grady. I graduated from UTS with a Master of Divinity degree in June, 1996. I was called to participate in the Jardim Providence with True Parents in Brazil and spent the next 6 years working as a missionary in my town, Bonito, one of the 33 cities chosen by True Parents. Since 2002, I have been living and working in the UK, near London.

I recently had a return visit and was able to meet and talk with some of my UTS colleagues who are still living and working here, and friends in my town of Bonito who still remember and miss me and my family.



Inside Bonito Church

It was a special time and reminded me of my first encounter with True Parents in Jardim on August 8, 1996, sitting at a simple wooden table with a couple of the Korean guys, then Father addressing me saying, "Where are the others?" I was the first missionary to arrive, but alone, without my colleagues. I said, "They are on their way!"

Over the next 7 weeks, we did physical labor on the farm, as more and more missionaries arrived. I was fortunate to be part of the ambulance ceremony where local leaders of the 33 cities met with True Parents to each receive an ambulance that Father had donated to them.

From early 1997, our UTS missionaries worked together to construct one of the 6 large buildings which became our school. I remember the Brazilian workers laughing at us because we didn't know what we were doing, but we learned quickly and accomplished our task.

Later, in October 1999, Father gave some financial support to each missionary saying, "Go to your city and build a school!" I took him literally and over the next 2 years, through many trials and tribulations, succeeded in building a temple for worship/education and a parsonage as living quarters. It was a rewarding but difficult task which took a heavy toll upon me and my family. With great sadness, we decided to leave Bonito and go to England, my wife's homeland, to allow our 4 children to grow up and be educated in a first world nation. That was a very fateful decision which has had long-term consequences.



Outside the Bonito Church

I have visited here 4 times since moving my family to England, and continue to provide financial support to the missionary couple who live in Bonito now. I remain fundamentally connected to Father's original Jardim Project and consider myself as True Father's representative to Bonito forever.

Have you ever been to Jardim? Everything about Jardim is different from the rest of the world: the air, the water, the sounds of the birds and mysterious beauty of the Miranda and Prata Rivers. Sometimes it feels very harsh, hot and unbearable, but then you will be refreshed by your own sweat and will feel the breath of a gentle breeze upon your cheek and you will feel the presence of God. Then, a tempestuous cloudburst will soak and cleanse the land, flooding the veins of the rivers, washing away the dust and heat. A sunburst will follow. Brilliant blues and greens combine with the red soil, shocking the senses. You immediately feel younger, more energetic. You feel that you can reach out and touch your dreams.

Father would often go fishing on the Paraguay River. Father would fish all day under the hot sun, and then go out all night, like a wraith, deeper and deeper into the limitless Pantanal. Father's spirit of adventure and curiosity was infectious. I felt I could do anything.

Although more than 10 years have passed, True Father's spirit and love remain very strong here in Jardim. True Parents will always be here. One day, True Father will return and visit all the places that he loves and will feel that he can live forever. I hope that I can be here on that day with many gifts in hand.



Futoshi Hirano, Ted O'Grady (2nd from left), Celia Zaduski, Takashi Hosoya outside True Parents' house at New Hope Farm

There are a few heroes who have been in Jardim, fighting the good fight all these years. Futoshi and Sita Hirano were among the very first Blessed Couples to settle here in 1995. They have 8 fantastic, beautiful children who are unique and lovely, just like their parents. Takashi Hosoya (UTS '96), my dear brother and colleague, has been taking care of all the missionaries here, while maintaining his mission in Jardim City. He is a shining example of faith and love who is deeply respected and loved by everyone. There are many others as well. Ken Shafto (UTS '96) has raised his family in Rio Brillante and continues in his mission there. Charles Kannal (UTS'96) worked hard for a long time in Terenos.

Don't forget Cesar and Celia Zaduski, Brazilian church leaders, who have continued to work here and have been instrumental in mobilizing many faithful Brazilian brother and sisters who have worked together with UTS missionaries to maintain and develop the missions in all of the 33 cities. Without their efforts, the Project would not have been able to survive.



Ted O'Grady, Takashi Hosoya at site of Brazil Ishin Hospital

Takao Moribe (UTS '96) and his wife Reiko (a medical doctor) have been fundamentally involved in the field of health care. Their efforts are now bearing fruit in the new Ishin Hospital Project, which is fully

approved and welcomed by the Brazilian government, and which is on the verge of construction. This will be the very finest hospital in all of Brazil, combining the highest level of medical care in both Brazil and Japan with the added dimension spiritual and physical harmony, both East and West, in the Field of preventative care and productive longevity. Sixty percent of the hospital's care will be reserved for the public sector, that is, free care to those who cannot afford private health care. This is an incredible blessing to all the people in the Jardim region and surrounding towns who suffer due to a lack of primary health care.

The Ishin Hospital Project is the fruit of True Parents deep heart of love for Jardim and all the people who live here. Without a doubt, everyone in the Jardim region loves and appreciates True Parents. Everyone knows and feels that True Father loves them and is doing everything in his power to help them and bring them to Heaven with him.

That is the precious gem that is Jardim. Without a doubt, Jardim will be the New Eden on Earth where all brother and sisters will meet together and live together forever in happiness and harmony. All the trials and tribulations that we experience in our church will be the source of great stories that we will share with each other for eternity.



Ted O'Grady outside the Temple at New Hope Farm

I hope that everyone can visit Jardim someday. Save a little bit of money so you can build a house here when you retire! \$10,000 is enough to build a simple house. No need to worry about a 30 year mortgage!

I am so very grateful to God and True Parents for allowing me to participate in the Jardim Project and to have a mission city that I can call my own. We wait with great anticipation for our True Parents' return and settlement in their beloved Jardim.