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Teaching and training Christian leaders by building  
a bridge between God's truths and our hearts.

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**Proposal to Establish  
Amazon Valley University (AVU)  
Ananindeua, Para – Brazil**



## Location:

Ananindeua, approximately 1 mile from Belem,  
Capital of Para in the Amazon Valley region.

# AVU Project Overview

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Believer's Bridge in conjunction with its Brazilian partners administers an international Christian K through 12 school near the mouth of the Amazon River in Ananindeua in Para, Brazil called Amazon Valley Academy (AVA). AVA's campus sits on approximately 7 acres. It consists of six buildings and fields. The school offers an accredited American-style Christian education for students from Early Childhood through grade 12.

AVA began as a school for missionary kids in 1957, moving to its current location in 1962. Having undergone several changes, the current student demographic consists of mostly Brazilian nationals with a few expats. The teachers and staff are mostly native North Americans, but include Brazilian nationals as well. Besides AVA, Believer's Bridge also administers an EFL program.

**Believer's Bridge is now undertaking a new project in Brazil, launching a university in the Amazon Valley region of Brazil.** This was birthed from a vision and a strong desire to see a Christian liberal arts university that turns out Christian leaders of action and lifestyle, not just in name and affiliation. Missão Ponte, Believer's Bridge's Brazilian NGO, is sponsoring the University with the assistance of Amazon Valley Academy (AVA). It will be located on the AVA campus in Ananindeua, Para, near the city of Belem.

The university which will be called **Amazon Valley University (AVU)** currently has one building containing 5 classrooms and a large assembly room/classroom. To date, we have been able to partially upgrade two of these classrooms. The remaining classrooms will need to be updated as well as replacing the old very noisy window A/C units, desks, chairs and chalk boards and much more. The project will have several phases, please see the 'Needs' section for more details on the project.

AVU will be a liberal arts college **offering degrees in Business, Education and Biblical Studies.** We have formed a partnership with Calvary Chapel University as our Biblical Studies partner in the USA. With our accredited partner university, we will be able to offer undergraduate degrees from an American university to our students.

We hope to begin classes as soon as August 2015 with a very small class. We are excited about this project and we hope you will join us in supporting this new venture. In the pages below you will see details about the project, the needs and how you can support this ministry in Brazil.

# THE PROBLEM/BACKGROUND

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Brazil is the largest country in both South America and the Latin America region. It is the world's fifth largest country with a total population of over 203 million. The school is located in Northern Brazil in the Amazon Valley Region in the municipality of Belem in the State of Para, the gateway of the Amazon River. It has a population of over 2.5 million people and is considered the 11<sup>th</sup> most populous city and is the second largest city in the northern region of Brazil.

It has been estimated that approximately 400 – 500 indigenous Amazonian Indian tribes exist throughout the Amazon Rainforest region where the school is located. The average nuclear family in Brazil typically consists of five with strong ties to the extended family, is quite common to find three generations under the same roof.

Children's education in Brazil usually begins at the pre-K level up to 3 years old and kindergarten is available for children from ages 4 to 6 years old. Primary and lower secondary education is free and compulsory for children between the ages of 6-14, the upper secondary education or **(Ensino Medio)** is ages 15 to 18 is also free but not compulsory. Higher education or **(Ensino Superior)** is provided at both public and private universities.

Higher education is free at the public universities. However Brazil's public education system is falling behind. **A report by the World Bank has predicted that Brazil is in peril of falling behind other developing economies if it does not improve its education system.** Currently there is a vast shortage of qualified work force which is slowly crippling the economy. One of the great obstacles to education reform remains in the disparity between private and public institutions.

Public schools are located in poor neighborhoods and lack the resources to improve their infrastructure. In addition, teachers working at these public schools often do not possess the knowledge or expertise to provide students with a high quality education. In Brazil, private schools are the main recipients of government funding. Thus, the average private school student is significantly more academically advanced than their counterpart at a public school. In addition, **we see that every year millions of students graduate from secondary schools without the ability to write an essay, solve a basic math problem or have any understanding of the basic concepts of the sciences.**

The most disturbing aspect is that this lacking in education has become socially acceptable. The Brazilian people have accepted the fact that there is a strong probability that they will not learn anything in school. As a result, **only 10% of the Brazilian population has a higher education degree.** What is even more astonishing is the fact that **32% of the current undergraduate students are functionally illiterate.** This is clear evidence that **even as higher education has become more accessible, the educational level of the students has been in decline.**

The problem with public universities, from a business perspective, is that it focuses on research and does not prepare the student for the current market. Also, public universities face a serious problem related to infrastructure. Many buildings are very old, many units lack laboratories and even the materials to apply the theory the students are learning. The democratization of higher education in Brazil took a negative direction because it was mainly driven by economic matters. **Both private and public universities now struggle with a curriculum that no longer supplies the needs of the market.** Such practices result in many professionals who, when compared to foreign professionals, for example, are not qualified despite having a bachelor's degree that takes 5 years to achieve.

In the private universities, professors are more highly qualified; students are dedicated and are more likely to be from a privileged background. When it comes down to actually working in their field, students from private universities achieve better results, especially in areas related to Business, IT and other administrative careers.

Currently in Brazil if you want a Christian education, you must attend both a university for your preferred field and a seminary for Biblical Studies. There is no university in the region offering a Christian education; we hope to fill that need by establishing Amazon Valley University. Believer's Bridge foundation has seen and recognized the need for higher education with Christian fundamental values, and has embark on a long term vision to provide higher education for the youth of Brazil in the State of Para.

By establishing a University at the AVA location, we hope to insure the continuation and an opportunity for the graduates from the AVA as well as others graduates from the area to continue their higher education along with the teachings of Christian values. The university, like the Academy offers an accredited American-style Christian education and students will receive an accredited degree from our partner Calvary Chapel University (CCU) in South Florida. Each student upon completion of the 4 years degree will receive a minor in Biblical Studies and a Bachelors degree in their field of choice. These will give the graduates a much higher level of education in comparison to their counterparts that are currently graduating from the public university system.

AVU began offering a few classes in September 2014 as a soft launch to a few students. We currently have 1 full-time student and a few part-time students who are ready for our official launch in September 2015. We have a small team in place ready to move forward with the official launch.

# The AVU Project Details

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## Goals & Objectives

Our goal at AVU is to train business professionals both in their chosen degree path and in Biblical principles. Our heart is to guide students as Christians to be fully committed to a 24/7 relationship with Christ, not only on Sundays. We see that many business owners here in practice are cultural Christians in Business and not Biblical Christians in Business. We plan to lay a solid Biblical foundation followed by educational excellence and continued involvement in the lives and professions of our students after graduation. We plan to offer a variety of degrees as God provides qualified teachers and the funding to continue to develop the project.

The objective is to do a full launch with a small class in September 2015 at our location on the grounds of the Amazon Valley Academy (AVA). We began with a soft launch in September of 2014 with a handful of students. We already have a small building with classrooms that needs to be updated to fit the university's requirements. In the long term, we hope to acquire a larger space as we expand our vision and the university.

The project will have several phases and as we grow, we will update the project plan accordingly. In this first phase we will focus on renovating the building and upgrading the classrooms, as well as administration/operations needs and some of the basic needs necessary to launch the university program.

We are asking for support for each of the following projects. Donors may choose to support a particular area of interest that is dear to their hearts or contribute to the general fund to be directed to the areas with the most urgent needs:

- A. Building fund – refurbish and remodel current building
- B. School supplies
- C. Operations/administration costs
- D. General fund

You may do a onetime donation or monthly contribution for continuous support of a project or program. We will provide updates of the project via our website or newsletters. We thank you in advance for your support. **With Jesus as our cornerstone, we will build something beautiful.**



# RESOURCES

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## Current Resources: Ava University Building

Main University Building and Land



Classroom



# The Needed Resources

These are our current needs for the first phase of the project:

## **1. FACILITY**

Refurbish and Remodel existing building and bring it up to standards.

- Remodeling existing building, roof, doors, windows, walls, and paint.
- Renovate and properly furnish each class room with the necessary equipment and technology.
- Provided each class room with climate control system.
- Upgrade electrical system as well as wired and wireless systems.
- Other miscellaneous items as needed

## **2. EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES**

Equipment/supplies include:

- Computers
- Projector and television
- PA systems
- Telephone systems
- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- Desks, chairs and bookcases for classrooms
- Desks and chairs for office space for the administrative team
- Printer/copier and router
- Basic office supplies etc

## **3. OPERATIONS**

The needs for this category is large and varied

- Utilities
- Salaries
- Travel needs
- Marketing
- Maintenance
- Insurances and taxes
- Office supplies
- Other miscellaneous costs

## **4. PERSONNEL**

We will need qualified instructors for the courses.

- Instructors
- Staff



# THE SOLUTION

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## Community Partnership Overview

Generous, compassionate donors have the opportunity to make the Amazon Valley University (AVU) project a reality. In an effort to maximize this positive transformation, Believer's Bridge development team has carefully analyzed the AVU needs. Based on these findings, an initiative has been created to provide for the most immediate needs of the project.

This is a long-term project and we will explore sustainable means of funding in the future. We will make realistic and measureable fundraising plans. We need your help to initiate and develop the AVU plan. As our partner, you will be a vital part of a vision to provide top quality education to the youth of the Amazon Valley region of Brazil.

Believer's Bridge would like to thank you on advance for your support. Please see our website at [www.believersbridge.com](http://www.believersbridge.com) for more details about the organization. Donors may give via Paypal on the organization's website link, or contact our Director of Capital Development, Mr. Edward Young at his Florida office at 754-701-7210.

## Cost Breakdown

QTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
	<b>FACILITIES</b>		
	Electrical upgrade and plumbing		\$15,800.00
	Wireless system with software & equipment including router & licenses		\$21,500.00
	Roof repairs		\$23,500.00
	Pressure clean building & painting		\$6,800.00
15	Windows & doors		18,950.00
5	Air condition units with installation costs	\$1,200.00	\$6,000.00
	Miscellaneous (sink, podium etc)		\$3,550.00
	<b>EQUIPMENT /SUPPLIES</b>		
10	Computers & laptops		\$21,950.00
	Office System: Printer/copier/ fax equipment		\$17,500.00
7	Projector System and Installation	\$1,250.00	\$8,750.00
	Sound or PA system		\$5,800.00
	Office Furniture – desks, 30 chairs, 6 bookcases, 6 table, whiteboard)		\$15,400.00
	Office supplies		\$3,500.00
	Telephone system		\$12,500.00
	Classroom furniture – Desks, tables & chairs		\$27,000.00
	<b>OPERATIONS</b>		
	36 Months operational expenses		\$325,750.00
	Maintenance, electrical, gas, transportation		
	Insurance, indirect expenses, wages, & contracts		
	Contingency		\$26,712.50
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>		\$560,962.50
	<i>Believer's Bridge Supervision &amp; Reporting Fee</i>		\$56,096.25
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		\$617,058.75

*The funds that you have generously contributed to Believer's Bridge will be used toward completion of the Project that you have chosen to support. If any of your kind donations exceeds budget cost, rest assured that it will be used to fund other Believer's Bridge projects designed to fill the urgent needs.*