

SMITH



Coreenne & Phil
Smith

BRAZIL

LANGUAGE

Portuguese

**MINISTRY
PRIORITIES**

Discipleship,
Education,
Evangelism

CHILDREN

Marc
Isabella

BIRTHDAYS

Coreenne 4/24
Phil 6/8
Marc 5/28
Isabella 5/4



LOCATION

Brazil



ABOUT

CORENNE and PHIL serve in Brazil with Hope Unlimited, a residential vocational training program rescuing high-risk street children between the ages of ten and eighteen. The program serves seven hundred youth a day, and strives to be a full-service center for human brokenness, making Christ known by tending to

not only spiritual needs, but physical, intellectual, emotional, and social brokenness. Each youth is launched with a viable job skill, and after-care is provided through early adulthood. Coreenne works especially with the older children transitioning into independent living, and is a surrogate mother to many of the children. Phil is the founder and CEO of Hope Unlimited. He is an associate missionary serving in Brazil in a joint appointment by International Ministries and Hope Unlimited.



MINISTRY STORY

It was a 100 degrees. I blasted my air conditioner and switched into four-wheel drive to climb the steep incline. And there he was. This old, feeble man, wobbling up the cobblestone road.

My truck is bulletproof due to deserted roads, where bodies are often discarded. How could I drive by? What could this old man do to me? I often ponder the Good Samaritan traveling here. Was he taking a risk when he stopped? How much risk is justifiable in the name of Jesus?

“Quer a carona?” I asked. He humbly accepted. “Where have you been?” I inquired. “To see my son on the Mountain.” Then it dawned on me. The eyes I saw through the rearview mirror were wrinkled, but they were eyes I knew. This was Mateus’s dad. Nineteen-year-old Mateus worried incessantly over this elderly father. But he wasn’t there to see Mateus. Mateus is dead.

He wanted to convince his last living son, Lucas, to stay at Hope Mountain. But the prodigal Lucas is angry, rebellious—lost. He can’t reconcile why his saintly brother was brutally murdered. His role model. Working at Hope. Providing for the family.

Mateus fell for a girl whose ex-boyfriend was a drug lord. Two masked boys on motorcycles pulled over a city bus, dragged Mateus out where they shot him in front of the horrified passengers, and then dragged his body to the side of the road. No one will be held accountable. I’m traumatized. We’re all traumatized on the



In honor of Mateus Soares
(February 20, 2002 – November 18, 2021)

Mountain. But there is still Lucas, and his life is precious. So we continue.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the children who have all suffered trauma and abuse—or they would not qualify to live on campus.

Pray for the house parents who care for up to twelve students at a time, who need love, affirmation, and a strong dose of structure restored into their lives.

Pray for partners who walk consistently with us in this important ministry of life transformation. It doesn’t happen in weeks. It happens a generation at a time.

SCRIPTURE

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

LUKE 10:36-37 (NIV)