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SGI-ICA-CPI BRAZIL PROGRAM HISTORY WITH THE METHODIST PEOPLES' CENTRAL INSTITUTE 2000-2006

December 26-28, 2000. Bill and Nancy Grow met in Charleston (SC) with Marion and Anita Way, missionary friends from Brazil, to create a plan and funding brochure for the SGI launch of a story-based series of artistic events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Methodist Institute for Social Action in Rio de Janeiro (aka Peoples' Central Institute). The consult in Rio was scheduled for November 23-30, 2001.

Spring, 2001. Promotion and fund raising continued in Brazil and the U.S. in preparation for the SGI consult in Rio de Janeiro set for November this year. Plane tickets for the six SGI consultants were purchased by the client, and a contributions solicitation campaign launched through the Advance Special giving project of The United Methodist Church in the USA. Contributions were processed from local congregations through the UMC district office in Thomasville GA and the UMC Board of Overseas Ministries to the Methodist Institute for Social Action in Rio de Janeiro.

November 2001. The SGI consult was held in Providence Hill, Rio de Janeiro's oldest favela (slum), with the purpose to catalyze the story-based centennial celebration project of the Peoples' Central Institute. Six SGI consultants demonstrated the Swamp Gravy community performance process, led the staff, board and community members in storytelling circles, oral history interview training, a 5-year celebration planning session and the creation of a local vignette performance based on community stories. The program was conducted in both English and Portuguese. Consult income was \$3,750.

February 12, 2002. Bill and Nancy met with Marion and Anita Way in Augusta, GA to follow up on the results of the SGI consult in November.

Spring 2002. Correspondence from Brazil indicated that the Peoples' Central Institute was actively implementing the plan that SGI facilitated in Rio the previous November. A photo gallery of its history was set up at the Center in May, and a brochure and poster (both in Portuguese) were created for use in advertising current and future "Encounters on the way to the Centennial", which was to climax on May 13th 2006 with a full scale community performance. *Swamp Gravy* artistic director, Richard Geer (of Community Performance, Inc.) was invited to assist Peoples' Central Institute in the development of their Centennial play.

2003 – The 2000 Phase I brochure was updated in Colquitt in English for Phase II fund-raising in the U.S. with the ICA as fiscal agent.

November 29-December 7, 2003. Peoples' Central Institute hosted Bill Grow and Richard Geer to help develop and perform further story-based vignettes and identify and train available local cast members and potential artistic leadership from the region. There were 70 participants in the program. Bill and Richard consulted *pro bono*.

April 22, 2004. Bill and Nancy met with Marion and Anita Way in Atlanta to follow up on the December program and discuss fund raising possibilities. In May, Bill Grow and Karen Kimbrel (Exe Dir of the Colquitt/Miller Arts Council) began to develop a Ford Foundation proposal to fund the remaining phase of the Peoples' Central Institute centennial community performance.

March, 2005. The Ford Foundation turned down our grant proposal for the Peoples' Central Institute, however Richard Geer and script writer, Jules Corriere, reaffirmed their commitments to produce the centennial celebration play. They agreed to work *pro bono*, with travel expenses made possible by donations through the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

May, 13, 2006. The Peoples' Central Institute centennial celebration main event was successfully produced. It was called *Um Caminho Sobre O Muro* ("A Way Over The Wall").