



# CERVI São Paulo, Brazil



LIFE International

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## Brazil

- Over 70% of Brazil's population is Roman Catholic.<sup>1</sup>
- With vast natural resources and a large labor pool, Brazil is South America's leading economic power.<sup>2</sup>
- Brazil is infamous for human trafficking. 250,000-400,000 children are prostituted.<sup>3</sup>
- Abortion is highly restricted in Brazil, and is allowed only in cases of rape or to save a mother's life.<sup>4</sup>
- Brazil has an estimated 1-4 million illegal abortions annually.<sup>5</sup>
- CERVI is the only known pregnancy resource center in São Paulo<sup>6</sup>, a city of over 11 million inhabitants.<sup>7</sup>

## Teenage Mom Discovers God Cares

Kelly came to CERVI alone and afraid. She was 16 and had been dating Carlos for 18 months. When the pregnancy test came back positive, Kelly got depressed and desperate. She wanted an abortion—soon. The counselor talked with Kelly about abortion's consequences and invited her to watch a video. In the midst of it, Carlos called. Kelly left. CERVI's intercessors started praying.

Two months later, Kelly called. She had decided to keep the baby, but her mom wanted Kelly to get an abortion. She talked with a counselor for a long time. Again, our partners prayed. If the Holy Spirit could convince Kelly, He could convince her mom as well.

Kelly called back. God had answered their prayers and her mom had accepted the baby, but now it was time to tell Carlos' family. Would they press for abortion too?

Days later, Kelly and her mother-in-law came to CERVI for counseling. Carlos' mother thanked us for helping Kelly avoid an abortion. Kelly was happy—her family supported her, and she'd learned God would take good care of her.

## CERVI Accomplishments

- Held abstinence presentations in three schools.
- Facilitated an Adolescent Health Conference.
- Held four sets of pre-natal courses.
- Had six TV interviews/magazine articles.
- Moved to a new building.

## CERVI Goals and Prayer Requests

- To reach more abortion-minded women.
- To increase the number of local and international donors.
- To recruit and train more volunteers.
- To build relationships with maternity shops to increase the material services available to pregnant clients.

## How Can You Partner with LIFE International?

Individuals, churches, centers, and businesses can partner with LIFE through prayer and financial support. Every prayer offered and every gift sown into LIFE helps make possible ministries like CERVI. Will you join with LIFE and help nationals establish life-giving ministries wherever abortion exists?

Questions? Want more information? Contact us at [info@lifeinternational.com](mailto:info@lifeinternational.com) or (616) 248-3300.



—Rose Santiago, director

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3 United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 - Brazil, 16 June 2009. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4a4214cb28.html>

4 Boland, R. & Katzive, L. (September 2009). Developments in Laws on Induced Abortion: 1998-2007. *International Family Planning Perspectives*, 34 (3). Retrieved from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3411008.html>

5 United Nations. Abortion Policy. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/abortion/doc/brazil1.doc>

6 As reported by LIFE Associates in Brazil

7 Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics. Retrieved from [http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/estatistica/populacao/estimativa2009/POP2009\\_DOU.pdf](http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/estatistica/populacao/estimativa2009/POP2009_DOU.pdf)