

## The Agreste people of Arapiraca

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| <b>Tracking Number</b> | <b>Date Prepared</b> 12-04-2007 |
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### Description

Agreste of Alagoas (HPZ) This eastern agricultural region of the state of Alagoas is characterized by rolling hills, farming communities, and a people that are very geographically spread out. The Agreste of Alagoas has an evangelical population of less than 3%. The churches are very small and there are few of them. The average church has less than 100 members and usually has an average attendance of only 20. Church planting has been very slow among the Agreste region of northeast Brazil. Due to the fact that there are 8 million people in the Agreste region of Brazil and the fact that the people are so geographically spread out, we desperately need churches to come work and partner to plant churches among the Agreste people. In the state of Alagoas, the Agreste region has 2244 sq miles. The state of Alagoas has more than 3 million people which is more than live in the entire state of Arkansas, and it is only a little bit larger than the state of Vermont. We are looking for an SC church to come and work in the city of Arapiraca which has almost 170,000 people which is about the same population as Little Rock, Arkansas. Arapiraca is a municipality located in the center of the Brazilian state of Alagoas. It is the second largest city in the state, was founded in 1924, and is only 52 miles from the state capital Maceio, which is the largest city in the state. The city is known mostly for its tobacco and thus considered "The Brazilian Tobacco Capital". Alagoas (AL), pron. IPA: la.la.'go.ajsl [1], is a small state in northeastern Brazil lying between the states of Pernambuco and Sergipe; touching the state of Bahia along a part of its southwestern border. The southern border of Alagoas is defined by the Rio Sao Francisco (Sao Francisco River). From the lagoons came the name of the state, which, in the 16th century, was invaded by Portuguese and French searching for pau-brazil (a type of wood). The Dutch first arrived in the neighboring state of Pernambuco and ended up conquering the territory. Throughout history, Alagoas have always maintained a good relationship with Pernambuco. The two states are so close that tourists cannot leave one without visiting the other. The capital, Maceio, which borders the Rio Macaio, is famous for its beaches and seafood and is Alagoas' most popular tourist attraction. The service sector is the largest component of GDP at 55.8%, followed by the industrial sector at 36.9%. Agriculture represents 7.3%, of GDP (2004). Alagoas exports: sugar 58.8%, alcohol 29.4%, chemicals 9%, tobacco 2.1% (2002). The economy has been agricultural, dependent largely on large sugar cane plantations with some tobacco farming that is concentrated around the city of Arapiraca.

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### HPZ Detail

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|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>PopID</b>                | 46861                                       |
| <b>Location</b>             | Urban                                       |
| <b>General Description</b>  | 2nd largest city in the state of Alagoas    |
| <b>General Demographics</b> | Agricultural Urban Center of 170,000 people |
| <b>Total Population</b>     | 170,000                                     |
| <b>Level of Evangelism</b>  | HPZ   |
| <b>Bridges and Barriers</b> | Highly Catholic with spiritism              |

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| <b>Engagement Status</b>                         | Yes  |
| <b>Harvest Force Information</b>                 |  |
| <b>Possible National Church Planters</b>         | Yes National Baptist Convention                                |
| <b>Identified Person of Peace</b>                | Yes  |
| <b>General Resources Available</b>               | Bible in heart language of Portuguese                          |
| <b>Logistic Information</b>                      |  |
| <b>Types of Transportation Available</b>         | Bus and Van  |
| <b>Type of Housing Available</b>                 | Hotel  |
| <b>Food</b>                                      | Very Good  |
| <b>Medical Facilities / Pharmacies Available</b> | Yes  |
| <b>General Strategy Information</b>              |  |
| <b>Type of Partnership Desired</b>               | SC Church, Strategic Partnership, Strategic Prayer Partnership |
| <b>Length of Partnership Desired</b>             | 3 years  |