

## Pujya Swamiji continues to bless Brazil

“You know that feeling of borrowing the teacher's mind during a class? It was my feeling at this camp. In a way, it seems I've lived with knowledge these 6 days. It was revealing to feel this freedom of understanding even by living strong emotional processes, realizing that the "comfort" of knowledge makes you prefer simplicity to luxury. I felt literally blessed in Dhanyashtakam's classes with Swamini. If the theme of this camp was family, that's exactly what we lived! What Harmony, how much learning, how much sincerity and courage in the exchange between students. It will take a few weeks or months to digest all this...” ( Carlos Andrade after the Vedanta camp, Architect, studying Vedanta with Jonas for 3 years)

“The camps with my teacher Jonas are a great opportunity to experience India culture and, much more than that, to be exposed to the knowledge that has existed for thousands of years. In these camps, we study different texts that are related to the weekly classes. This allows us to contemplate different angles that help us to get deep and beautiful views of the tradition. The camps always occur in simple places amidst nature, helping us to be comfortable with ourselves while dealing with our emotions. My teacher Jonas is very dynamic and applies all his energy to the teaching. His work is an invitation for us to learn how to deal with the unpredictable inside and outside us. I could feel the alignment between Swamini's teaching and my teacher, Jonas Masetti 's, realizing that we are living the tradition. Each with their own personality points to the same reality. Clearly and objectively, they point to our unlimited nature. In this harmony I notice between them, I feel the presence of Swami Dayananda who is alive in our hearts. The strength of all the gurus is with us and we enjoy this love, with more intensity in the camps. (Alina Miranda, Professor of Philosophy, Jonas's student since September 2016)



*Vedanta camp in Brazil*

“The camp really transformed me. I was surprised by the clear and deep understanding given through the classes. Also with how the people naturally connected with the rhythm of the activities. Everyday, the feeling of union, cooperation, truth and love just got bigger among the group. The camp is a real opportunity to go further on the study, on the self-knowledge and to have a real connection with the colleagues and the teacher.”  
(Larissa von Hartenthal, Yoga teacher, Jonas’ student since April/2017)

These are just some of the happy voices of the students who attended the two Vedanta camps held in a farm at the country side of Brazil at the Atlantic Woods Forest, 2 hours from Rio de Janeiro, from August 26th to 2nd September and 3rd to 9th September, conducted by Swamini Brahmajnananda and Acharya Jonas Masetti (also known as Vishvanatha). Attended by 75 students whose age ranged from 22 to 65 years, the texts unfolded were Dhanyashtakam, Narada Bhakti sutras (select verses) and Nirvana shatakam. The daily schedule was action packed which included yoga, meditation, puja, Vedanta classes, physical exercises, Sanskrit classes, emotional processing work, seva and satsang.

This was the sixth Vedanta camp conducted under the aegis of Vishvavidya institute. The institute was founded in 2014 in Petropolis in the mountains close to Rio de Janeiro after Vishvanatha returned from the Anaikatti course with Pujya Swamiji. In the inaugural ceremony, Ganapati homa and puja was conducted by our priest Ravi Chandra from Saylorburg Ashram, also accompanied by his wife Shubha ji. Gloria Arieira ji who has been teaching Vedanta in Brazil for more than 40 years, blessed Vishvanatha and the numerous students from across the country with the anugraha bhashanam. Mr Raju Sharma, First Secretary, Indian embassy of Brazil said, “ Vishvavidya institute is an example of spreading Indian culture. We are very pleased that hundreds of people are benefitting from the teachings and what the Indian culture has to offer. We sincerely thank you and recognise you for your effort, energy, time given to the Indian culture.”

The institute teaches Vedanta, Sanskrit, mantras and Vedic culture ([www.vedanta.life](http://www.vedanta.life)). Currently the institute has more than 400 regular students, who are learning prakarana granthas and Gita as an introduction to Vedanta. Retaining the elements of traditional learning, the institute has pioneered the model of online learning. The model is very interesting because it takes the advantage of the internet where people from all over the country listen to Vedanta on a weekly basis. This is complemented by 2 residential camps of 15 days annually and weekend workshops where students can have an experience of living in a gurukulam with the teacher. The number and variety of people that study under this program, from different ages, culture and social class is noteworthy. There are business men, householders, waiters and even a tractor driver from the countryside. Recognising that Brazil does not have a culture of dakshina nor an appreciation of the Indian culture, still the knowledge is available to everyone. There are regular classes where students pay a monthly fee. For people who cannot afford a regular fee, 30% of contributions from the regular classes is used for scholarships. Additionally the institute conducts yearly open classes to spread Vedanta and meditation which have 30,000 students primarily from Brazil. The institute itself has the energy of an ashram, and of course adapted to the local culture. Pujya Swamiji had once said that if another country was there to preserve Vedanta, he thought it would be Brazil. We see his words and blessings manifesting in abundance.

**Om tat sat.**

**-Report by Swamini Brahmajnananda**