SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 2011

ARRIVAL IN SÃO PAULO
We arrived at São Paulo-Guarulhos International Airport around 8:30pm. While waiting for our luggage, we had time to change money at the airport. We easily found our People to People representatives, Marcella Granatierian, our national guide, and Cristina Wiedern, the local guide who accompanied us to the Renaissance São Paulo Hotel on Alameda Santos. It was evening and cool and rainy when we arrived. The bus was comfortable and the ride to the hotel took about an hour, longer than we anticipated. Since it was dark, we could not get much of a sense of the city. We arrived at the hotel about 10pm. The hotel was lovely and our rooms were ready.

Some people were hungry and the bar area was serving food only until 11pm. Several delegates decided to eat first and then complete registration. Others wanted to register and then get something to eat. About half the delegation spent some time together having a late night snack.

We received instructions about the morning program including an early breakfast and cultural program. It was nice to see so many returning delegates who had been on previous NASW – People to People trips.

MONDAY OCTOBER 17

ORIENTATION AND CULTURAL BRIEFING
We had an early start at 7:30am. Breakfast was provided at the hotel. It was an extensive buffet.

A briefing was scheduled for 8-9am. Marcella went over the week’s program schedule and then she gave an excellent cultural overview of Brazil.

CULTURAL PROGRAM

Starting in 1964, and for the next 20 years, Brazil was governed by a dictatorship. During this time, 100,000 people were killed. In 1985, they elected their first president. It is mandatory to vote in Brazil. They vote for every position, including President, every four years. If you do not vote, you cannot work in civil jobs and you must pay a tax. Only married women were first allowed to vote in 1940. Now there is a woman President.

In 2003, the first President from the working class was elected. President Luiz Inacio (Lula) da Silva only had an elementary education. Our guide described him as very charming and much loved by the people of Brazil. When he left office because of term limits, he still had an 80 percent approval
During his term of office, however, international relations with the USA were strained because of Lula’s ties with Iran. Also, during this time, China surpassed the USA as Brazil’s top trade partner. President Lula was replaced by the current President, Dilma Rousseff. She had been imprisoned for three years during the dictatorship. President Rousseff was elected with 57 percent of the vote. Her major goal is to eliminate extreme poverty.

Brazil is the fifth most populous country with a population of 184 million, 20 million in the state of São Paulo and 17 million of them in the city of São Paulo. Five million Brazilians live below the poverty level. Over 40 percent of the population was illiterate in the 1990s. They are working hard to improve education. Schools, colleges and public agencies are all free. Today the adult literacy rate is 86 percent.

Five percent of the population controls 70 percent of the wealth. Taxes are extremely high, the second highest in the world. Taxes on goods are between 40 and 60 percent. They import most of their workforce.

Twenty-five percent of all plants in the world grow in Brazil, and Brazil exports 30 percent of the coffee in the world. In addition to coffee, they export sugar and gold. The largest gold mine is in the high Amazon. They are also known for gemstones.

The major religion in Brazil is Catholic, the Carnaval is a Catholic holiday spanning from Friday to Tuesday before lent, the currency is the real, the main language is Portuguese, and samba music is the main instrument of expression.

**CITY TOUR OF SÃO PAULO**

At the conclusion of the briefing the delegates and the guests began a city tour. We drove through Higienopolis, a historic part of the city that is being gentrified. We stopped for a short visit at the Cathedral Metropolitan de São Paulo which is a magnificent place, similar to cathedrals in Europe. Construction began in 1930, but it was not inaugurated until 1954, without the dome that it now has. We passed the famous soccer stadium called Estadio do Pacaembu. Brazil will host the World Cup in 2012, and the Olympics in 2016.

We saw the view from the top of Morumni, then finished the morning with lunch at a restaurant called Chacara which served food grown in São Paulo. We had a buffet. Brazilians like both sweet and salty foods, and there was a huge selection.

After lunch, our guests went to visit Embu das Artes, a quaint village about 28 kilometers from São Paulo. In the 1500s, it had been a Jesuit Mission and currently houses the Sacred Art Museum.
PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD (ALIança PELA INFâNCiA)
The delegates began their afternoon with a visit to the Alliance for Childhood. Our host was Ms. Giovana Barbosa de Souza, the coordinator of the program. She was accompanied by Patricia Gimael, another staff member. Because of the size of our delegation, they had secured a site in a university with a room large enough to accommodate us.

The Alliance is part of an international network that was founded in 1997. It was not until 2001 that a branch opened in Brazil. Since that time it has grown to 13 branches around the country. Their approach is not to develop programs of their own, but to support existing projects so they can be more successful. They have a national advisory board that focuses on pre-school education. Both the board and staff contribute to their efforts. Their activities include research, publications, public education, public policy, consultation and mobilization.

Our hosts stated that their goals were to support the healthy development of children and to promote a “love of learning and joy of living.” They discussed several critical issues including the loss of creative play and interaction with other children due to too much time with television and video games. They also have a concern about childhood obesity and the commercialization of childhood.

Their work is funded by grants and donations, and their annual budget is only $30,000 per year. We had brought toys and books for children and also presented the program with a donation from the National Association of Social Workers.

SÂO PAULO REGIONAL SECTOR OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WORKERS (CONSELHO FEDERAL DE SERVIÇO SOCIAL OR CFESS)
Next we traveled to meet with representatives from the São Paulo Regional Sector of the Federal Council of Social Workers (CFESS). Our host for that meeting was Dr. Eloisa Gabriel dos Santos, the President of CFESS, and she was joined by the Director and Executive Secretary who spoke English.

CFESS appears similar to the Council on Social Work Education in the USA. We discussed the structure of the social work profession in Brazil. You need a degree to be a social worker, and there are about 45,000 social workers in São Paulo. After a bachelor’s degree, there is a year of post-degree training for specialization. After that a Master’s degree can be obtained in one year. A doctorate takes an additional four years. Practitioners do not get doctorates. They are limited to people who wish to work in academics.

The government is the largest employer of social workers, but there are not enough jobs. They noted several social
problems that need greater attention. These included homelessness, the widening disparity between the wealthy and the poor, violence in schools, and children dropping out of school despite a law saying they must attend until age 16.

They discussed the efforts to keep children in school. If a family is under the poverty line, the federal and state government will pay the family a combined total of about $80 per year for each child they keep in school. They have laws protecting children and teenagers, but they noted that the practice was not as good as the law. They acknowledged some human trafficking in São Paulo, but said the numbers were small.

Special areas of focus for their organization include ethics and respect for diversity and competency in social work – all areas of concern for American social workers as well. We presented them with copies of our Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competency as well as a book on social work ethics. We also discussed our common goals of advancing human rights and social justice.

They gave us bookmarks celebrating 18 years of their Code of Ethics which they established in 1993. It includes a picture of a tree that has branches for freedom, human rights, democracy, diversity, justice, social justice, service, quality, prejudice, freedom, and the fight for emancipation. It was a good professional exchange.

We returned to the hotel after a long day. Dinner was at a local restaurant called Frontera.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 18

CULTURAL PROGRAM

SÃO PAULO MUNICIPAL MARKET

Today was a mixed professional and cultural day. We left the hotel at about nine for a trip to the Municipal Market. The bus had had mechanical problems and we left about a half hour late, and we had only about an hour of free time there. We all enjoyed learning about the different fruits, vegetables, cheeses, herbs and fish you could purchase there. Especially fascinating were the fruits that produce cashew nuts as stems.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

CENTER FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ACTION (CENTRO DE ESTUDOS E PESQUISA EM EDUCAÇÃO CULTURAL E AÇÃO COMUNITÁRIA OR CENPEC)

We all met at the bus at 10:15am for our trip to the Center for Studies and Research in Education, Cultural and Community Action (or CENPEC). Our host for this visit was Cristinia Fernandes who is the head of their Communication Department. Since the
morning was sunny, the orientation presentation about CENPEC, given by Cristinia and Antonio Batista, a researcher, was held on the outdoor patio.

When the dictatorship ended, CENPEC was founded by six academic scholars in 1987 to work in three areas – education, social service and culture. Their main focus is education, and Brazil has many challenges in this area. In 1987, education became a right for children of elementary school age, not high school. CENPAC developed support materials for teachers and they disseminated materials in partnership with local government. They also have developed partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

They identified people to work with children after school. Children only go to school four hours/day for 200 days, which they feel is not sufficient. Schools have three different student groups per day 7:00-11:00, 11:00-3:00 and in the evenings. There was a bill called Citizenship Constitution of 1988 which passed into law as the Child and Adolescent Bill of Rights. The government will provide pre-school for children aged four to six starting in 2016, but currently over three percent of children drop out of elementary school.

One problem they have with extending the school day is teacher certification. They do not feel that the teacher educational training experience is adequate. This creates a serious workforce issue. The school budget is shared by the city, state and small city halls. CENPEC does not work with the budgeting process, only with technical assistance.

CENPEC partners with the private sector such as foundations and universities. They also have a partnership with the Ministry of Culture. Brazil is a multi-cultural country, including descendants of the Portuguese who colonized Brazil and the African slave population. It also has numerous disparities in health, education, and other indicators that measure quality of life.

CENPEC staff described two recent projects. One is an effort to reorganize their cultural heritage in areas such as music. This cultural history has been undervalued by Brazilians. This is especially true for groups from the countryside. They have researched the places of this culture and have published four books on the history, art, domestic, and day-to-day life aspects. They have also created educational materials and have held a large public exhibit. A second project is called “Culture Alive.” The project was for all Brazil, and included many forms of culture from around the country.

The growth of NGOs and the democratization of Brazil went hand in hand. They have Brazilian and international NGO support. Now international NGO support is greater than the Brazilian who do not see the need as so great.
Current challenges include dealing with inequalities focusing on race, gender, social class and regional differences. They are also trying to give teachers a voice in order to promote educational changes.

For lunch we walked to a restaurant that had only been opened three weeks. It was called Ja Estamos Funcionando. There was a huge selection of foods and each person paid by the weight of his or her plate. It was fun. A member from CENPEC sat at each table so our professional exchange could continue after lunch.

SÃO PAULO ART MUSEUM
Late afternoon included a cultural program. We arrived at the São Paulo Art Museum at 4pm and had an hour and a half to view their significant collection of Old Masters’ paintings. They also had an exhibit of graffiti. Graffiti is quite prevalent in São Paulo, often on homes and historical buildings. When asked about it, the guides and others defended it as an art form.

It was a lovely mild day and the art museum was not far from our hotel, so we walked back from the museum. We only had a short time before we left for dinner. Dinner was at a Brazilian bar-b-que restaurant called Barbaco where waiters circulate and continuously serve 8-12 types of meat and fish. There was also a significant salad bar for delegates who were vegetarian. On the way back from dinner, we recognized our terrific local guide Cristina – who would not be traveling with us to Rio.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19

FLIGHT TO RIO DE JANEIRO
(CIDADE MARAVILHOS A OR MARVELOUS CITY)
Today was a travel day. We checked out of our São Paulo hotel and transferred to the São Paulo Congonhas Airport for a short flight to Rio. We landed a little before noon at the Rio de Janeiro Santos Airport. Marcella, our national guide, traveled with us. She was expert in getting us checked in as a group and managing our luggage and transfer. Unfortunately, it was raining in Rio which necessitated a change in plans. Instead of going to Sugar Loaf Mountain, we were transported to our five-star hotel.

The Sofitel Rio de Janeiro, is situated on Atlantica Avenue right on Copacabana beach and within walking distance of Ipanema. It is known for its service, large rooms and wonderful views. It is quite lovely and everyone seemed pleased with the accommodations.

The only downside was that our rooms could not be available until 3pm as the hotel was full. They designated an area for us to wait, and we completed registration forms. Some delegates decided to have lunch at the hotel. Others went out shopping or to visit the gem factory H. Sterns. We had free time for a few hours, but had to be back at the hotel to meet the bus at 7pm for dinner.
We went to a restaurant called Colombo that had a large buffet including a sushi bar. Restaurant staff were accommodating and there was a huge selection of food. We returned to the hotel at 9pm. Delegates were appreciative of an early night.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

AfroREGGAE

All of us were looking forward to visiting the AfroReggae Cultural Group, an NGO with a focus on social and cultural activities to help remove young people from drug trafficking and violence.

AfroReggae is located in Vigario Geral favela. The word “favela” derives from an herb in the Northeast which is a very poor area of the country. As people migrated to the city, shantytowns developed. These are different in Brazil because they are not outside the city like so many places but are integrated into the city. Over one-tenth of the population, or a million people, live in 1000 favelas. Many of them are run by drug lords, and outsiders are not usually welcome.

On the way to the favela, the bus stopped to pick up Betho Pacheco who is AfroReggae’s Special Projects Coordinator. He gave us the history of AfroReggae and described life in the favela. Begun in 1993, the program expanded in 2005 and now has several major sponsors including a large bank and city government. It was the vision of a man they call “Junior” who had previously been an event planner. They use art to replace violence, and state they use “cultural weapons” to bring about change. Students can learn dance, theatre, percussion, or how to be a deejay. Their goal is to help young men who have already been in trouble with the law or have been in prison to re-enter society. They have helped 1500 young men during the program’s existence and boast a 60 percent success rate.

Betho gave us very clear instructions about entering the favela. Most importantly, pictures were not to be taken on the way to and from the facility. We had a bit of a walk up a series of ramps. We passed a nicely maintained field where a group of small boys were playing soccer in their bare feet. Like young boys everywhere, they seemed to be enjoying the game.

We arrived at AfroReggae and found that there was an outside stage. A group of performers was waiting for us and they did several numbers using only rudimentary percussion instruments like painted boxes and pails. They were excellent. They reminded us of the group called “Stomp” in our country. The AfroReggae compound was a brightly colored building of four floors, each one a different color. On the top of the building is a large clenched fist, their symbol. We were able to wander...
around the building and saw the deejay floor, an impressive sound stage, and a dance studio where young girls were taking ballet lessons.

After our tour, we all gathered in the auditorium where we learned more about their important work and innovative programming. Their model has been adapted by other states in Brazil. They work with police, and younger police have a band of their own. Delegates were both impressed and inspired. Co-leader Richard Jones presented a donation on behalf of the delegates to help with their work. It was a wonderful experience.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

INSTITUTE OF STUDIES OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO (INSTITUTO DE ESTUDOS EM SAÚDE COLETIVA OR IESC)

After a quick lunch on our own at a mall food court, we traveled to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The delegation was hosted by Professor Mavi Pacheco Rodrigues of the social work program. She was joined by nine of her faculty. One of them spoke English. Marcella and the son of one of the professors served as translators. The son said he had learned English by listening to music by the rock group Iron Maiden. His English was very good.

After some introductions of the entire group, we interacted in three smaller groups that focused on health care, gender violence, and children and families. The discussions were lively, and we found many points of similarities in areas of social problems and social work practice.

At the conclusion of the program, we returned to the hotel for relaxation and a free evening. Many delegates walked to a street market and did some shopping, then stopped at a local restaurant called Frontera for dinner.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

This professional day focused on health. We divided the day between the Coordination of the Strategy of Family Health of the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro in the morning and the Family Healthcare Center in a favela in the afternoon.

COORDINATION OF THE STRATEGY OF FAMILY HEALTH OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO (COORDENAÇÃO DA ESTRATÉGIA DA SAÚDE DA FAMÍLIA DO MUNICÍPIO DO RIO DE JANEIRO)

We began our day with a visit to City Hall in downtown Rio. As we entered the City Hall area, there were signs that said UPP which means the police have pacified a shantytown, that drug dealing has been eliminated and they are under police protection. There are 80 favelas pacified so far.
The program was called The Strategy for Family Health. Our main contact there was Dr. Nulvio Lermen, Jr., coordinator of family health. The Advisor on Primary Health Attention, Ms. Keith Simas, welcomed us briefly. She had made a four hour round trip to bring us greetings. Dr. Lermen gave an excellent overview of health care in both Rio and the country of Brazil. He emphasized that health care is unequal across Brazil, especially in the poorer regions of the north. He was joined by a dentist who oversaw all dentistry care. Dr. Lermen began his position in May, and was positive and optimistic about future progress despite some major challenges.

In Brazil, people do not go to doctors regularly. They are trying to change that culture and have people come for regular check-ups and immunizations. In African-Brazilian communities people traditionally go to elderly women for medical care with herbal therapy. A major challenge is to provide health care for people who live in shantytowns. One of the problems is that some people there do not have a birth certificate or identification. For the past six years they have been trying to address these issues. It is difficult to get people who do not have enough to eat to take medicines.

The city health department has formed a partnership with community leaders. There are no hospitals in rural communities. Sometimes, especially with diseases like cancer and heart disease, patients are flown to São Paulo for needed treatment. Family clinics use doctors, nurses, nurse assistants, psychologists, community health workers, and sometimes social workers and dentists. They have a universal health system. A law was passed in the 1990s that said health care would be provided for every citizen with free access and high quality. Now over 61 percent of the population uses the United Health System (called SUS). Thirty-eight percent use both SUS and private health care. There is no fee-for-service in their universal health care system. A quarter million people are health care professionals, and more than 400,000 work in primary health care. In Brazil there are 27 states and 5562 municipalities. Health care is delivered at the municipal level. Each team is responsible for 3000-4000 people. They are required to include health promotion and prevention. Each team also has 12 community health workers who are drawn from the local community. There are two health teams specifically for the homeless.

Dr. Lermen reported that there have been successes. Infant mortality decreased from 47 percent in 1990 to 17 percent in 2011. Malnutrition has decreased dramatically. Vaccinations have increased from 50 percent to over 60 percent. Longevity also has increased to 76 years for women and 67 years for men. The Brazilian government invested over $6 billion on health care last year, but it is not enough.
PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

FAMILY HEALTHCARE CENTER IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA

After Dr. Nulvio Lermen’s presentation, we returned to the bus to travel to our restaurant for lunch. It was a lovely place with an outstanding buffet. Dr. Lermen and his colleague, the head of dentistry, joined us. It was their first visit there and they seemed pleased to be included.

At the conclusion of lunch, we embarked on our visit to the Rochina favela. With 100,000 inhabitants, it is the largest of the Rio favelas. It was “not pacified” and there were several requirements for our entry. First of all, we would be accompanied by the health department staff who were known to the favela. We had to travel in vans, not a bus, and all the windows had to remain open on the vans so that it was apparent we were not bringing in police or reporters. It was also made very clear that cameras and cell phones were not acceptable. This was stressed several times.

The area was filled with activity and it was very noisy and colorful. People were everywhere and several guards were stationed around the entrance. Motor taxis picked up and dropped off riders who needed to get up or down the hill to their homes. Both children and elderly individuals were perched precariously on the motorbikes.

The clinic was not very far from the entrance. Staff were expecting us and we were divided into two groups to tour the facility. It was a modern building and efforts had been made to make patients feel welcome. There was standard equipment and there were patients being seen, especially young children with their mothers. Surprisingly, they used electronic medical records at the clinic. Staff were quick to point out that the community health staff who lived in the favela could only input data. They could not view patient data as a privacy precaution. The health care teams were proud of the facility and the important work they were doing there.

As we neared the end of our clinic tour, we were informed that a group next door wanted us to stop and see their work. They were the RapdaSauda. We watched a training video they had prepared to raise public awareness about the difficulties people with physical disabilities have while trying to get around the city. It was called Mobilidade Urbana and it was quite well done. They gave us a copy of it and asked us to help distribute it to others.

Next a group of teenagers performed a dance for us and then gave the delegates a samba dance lesson. It had been a full day and we were ready to go back to the hotel for a break before dinner.

Dinner was at a place called Rio Scenarium, an antique gallery by day transformed into a restaurant and classic old style Rio dance hall at night.
The restaurant was in the Lapa District (an area of city for nightlife). The owner loved samba music and knew some musicians so he decided to start a nightclub. There are three floors and live music. We had a set dinner with steak as the main course. By dinner’s conclusion, most people were quite tired and decided to forego the samba for a little more rest.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22

CULTURAL PROGRAM

CHRIST THE REDEEMER AND TJUNCA NATIONAL PARK

Saturday was a cultural day with several major events. We began the day with a trip to Tijunca National Park which is all that is left of the rain forest that once surrounded Rio de Janeiro. Only seven percent of it remains, but it once covered one million square kilometers. It still has some of the highest biodiversity levels in the world including 600 bird species. Several species are endangered including the wooly spider monkey and the tamarin monkey.

The highlight of the visit was seeing the famous statue of Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) which stands atop a mountain called Corcovado (the name means hunchback). Because the mountain rises up from the city, the statue is visible from almost every part of the city.

It was a cloudy morning with a bit of drizzle, but we could still get a view of Rio from the mountaintop. The escalator to the base of the statue was not working. This meant delegates had to be quite careful on the slippery and uneven stone steps.

The Redeemer statue is quite beautiful and its size from a distance is deceiving. It compared to the Statue of Liberty in scope. Despite the rain and fairly early hour, there were many tourists there.

On our return trip we stopped briefly at Monkey Falls. Our bus next dropped us off at the hotel where we were met by a tourist company with open sided jeeps. We were heading into the rain forest to have a picnic lunch. On the way up the mountain one jeep had a flat tire. A second jeep had a problem with its transmission. That necessitated the third jeep taking one group up to the park and then returning for the next group. We all finally arrived at the picnic pavilion where the tourist company had prepared a picnic lunch for us. The weather was cold and rainy – not the best day for eating outdoors.

We were a bit tired and damp, and many of us were considering skipping the rescheduled visit to Sugarloaf Mountain. Marcella convinced us that it was not to be missed. We returned to the hotel and had a few minutes to get some warmer clothes before boarding the bus to the mountain. Almost all of the delegates decided to go. We were not disappointed.
Getting through admissions went smoothly and we took the cog train to the top. It was spectacular. The sun had come out and the view of the bay was amazing. We saw a model of an older cable car – the type that had been blown up when a James Bond movie was filmed there. We had time for photographs and time to do a bit of souvenir shopping. It was well worth the effort.

We met back at the hotel to travel together to the farewell dinner which was held at the Marius Crustaceos Restaurant, an all you can eat seafood restaurant with amazing and unusual decor. Delegates took numerous pictures, many of them in the restrooms which had floors covered with loose seashells and coffee beans. Once again, the buffet was extensive and the wait staff circulated with platters of shrimp, oysters, lobster, salmon, sea bass, and octopus. At the conclusion of dinner, delegates discussed some of the highlights of the trip and we all thanked Marcella for her efforts and for making our experience in Brazil a wonderful one.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 23**

For those delegates and guests going on the extension to Iguaçu Falls, their airport departure time was 7am. For the rest of us, our last day in Brazil was a free day. We could take advantage of the hotel breakfast buffet until 10:30am. Our luggage was collected because we had to check out of our individual hotel rooms at noon. For the afternoon free time, several of the delegates went to the Botanical Gardens which had an outstanding exhibit of orchids. Others walked to Ipanema and spent time at the Hippie Market on Praca General Osorio which sold handcrafted items like leather goods, jewelry, and artwork. It was our hottest day, so we enjoyed having late afternoon access to the hospitality suites our national guide had arranged for us.

Many of the delegates had an early dinner at a hotel restaurant. We left for Galeao International Airport around 7pm. Our national guide accompanied us and made everything run smoothly, as it had all week.

Check-in at the airport was efficient and we got through security with no problems. Since we had a little extra time, some delegates did airport shopping. Our plane left right on schedule at 11pm for our ten-hour flight to JFK Airport.
Brazil was a beautiful country with friendly people. The city of São Paulo, with its 17 million citizens was the largest city most of us had ever seen. In contrast Rio was casual with wonderful beaches and breathtaking scenery. Every morning the beaches were filled with people exercising – jogging and playing volleyball – before work. In the evenings, people seemed relaxed, restaurants were numerous, and there seemed to be no hurry to conclude the evening.

Visiting the favelas was a cultural experience we might not have had if we had been traveling on our own. The atmosphere there seemed charged. The second, unpacified favela we visited had several young men at the entrance who were armed, and activity and noise seemed to be at a frenetic pace.

Shortly after our return to the USA, the Associated Press ran an article titled, “Police take over Rio’s biggest slum.” They reported that 3,000 police officers and soldiers took control of a shantytown ruled for decades by drug gangs. The operation was to reduce crime and to help prepare Rio for the 2012 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. The favela in the article was Rochina which we had visited. It had been pacified.