

Arriving at the *Casa de Dom Inácio* in Abadiânia, Brazil

John of God— A Spiritual Healing Journey

Laura Bushnell

Over the years I had heard of John of God but never felt that I needed to go. I was not sick so why would I go? Suddenly I felt a calling to visit him in 2013. The calling was very strong and there was no denying it. That same year I was invited to work in São Paulo, Brazil by the gifted medium Carmen Balhestero at PAX (*Fraternidade Pax Universal*), her healing center. I decided that since I would be so close, I would take a two-week trip to see John of God (*João de Deus*—his birth name is *João Teixeira de Faria*—in Portuguese) at the *Casa de Dom Inácio* (the house of Saint Ignatius Loyola), in Abadiânia, Brazil.

I was curious. I was skeptical. I was too mental about it, but I was going. My dear friend and colleague Katarina Mannheimer from Stockholm joined me. We would do the trip without a guide, which is not usually recommended. I was called to do the trip this way and made all the arrangements myself—guided perfectly by spirit at every turn. It all flowed and came together so easily. My skepticism dissipated a little. I knew in my heart what I was doing was indeed correct. I didn't know the “why” and I did not need to. It is very important to follow one's heart in such matters and leave the mind to other tasks.

We arrived in Brasilia feeling relieved to be out of the big city of São Paulo. The vibe was more laid back and we could let some of our shields down.

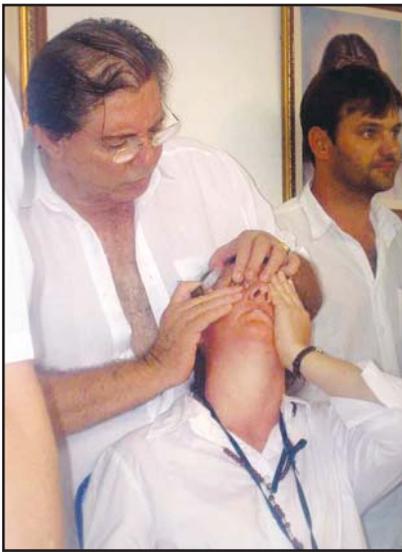
The two-hour drive to the small village of Abadiânia was interesting and quite lovely. We felt more and more ourselves the closer we got to our destination. We checked into our hotel called a *pousada* and changed into white clothes. We were completely on our own. As soon as we took a walk we ran right into John of God himself. He was alone and we just stood back and watched him. We ran into him constantly the entire trip, often saying hello.

He does not speak English, so it was not as if we could have a conversation with him. Also, what I learned is that it is not about him... it is much more than that. The energy that is in this sacred place is quite astonishing. The energy he brings through him, and the other mediums that are holding the space for his work, is all difficult to even explain.

Remember—I am Ms. Skeptical when it comes to my field of expertise. I am also a Virgo, so I am always looking for perfection. It's not my fault, I was just born this way! ;-)



We spent the first day orienting ourselves and thinking about what we wanted to ask him for help with. We were told by other pilgrims that nothing was too small or too large. I went there with a broken heart. My mother and stepfather had died a couple years before in an unexpected way and I wanted to heal from it. Katarina wanted to write a book. She thought about it and had started it many times but it had not happened yet. We had a few things we wanted to get help with. We made a list



“When all human help fails, there is then room for the divine.”

— John of God

so we could go to get it translated.

The place is magical. The people that gather there are from all over the world

with so many different reasons for coming. There are many people that are ill. There are many that are on a spiritual path and want to move into more of themselves. There are others who, like me, are curious.

The first time I went before him I was uncertain. He is not a warm and fuzzy guy. The communication is limited. He handed me a prescription for herbs and I sat back down and before I knew it, something had pushed me to my feet and I was standing in a line, handed a small paper, and told to sit down and prepare for surgery. I closed my eyes and felt a strong energy go into my heart and swirl around intensely like a scrub brush. When I came back in to the room the incredible voice of a man saying the Lord’s Prayer permeated me—the voice of an angel.

I walked out into the sunlight and was told to sit and wait for an English-speaking staff member, which I did. A young man approached us and told us to all take a taxi to our *pousada* and rest. I felt pretty energized but followed the direction. Within 20 minutes I was down in bed and I honestly looked and felt like I had experienced surgery. My meals for the next 24 hours were brought to me and I slept.

Thank goodness my skepticism and mental chatter were not allowed to continue on. It all stopped and my life, on many levels, shifted from that day on. I began to understand the leaving of my parents and the perfection of the way they left. It was a process that

was physical, emotional, and very psychological. The following two weeks were magical. I cannot tell you in words how intriguing this place and its visitors are.

There is nothing too small or too large to ask for help with. After our trip to Brazil, Katarina wrote her book, which has been a great success in

Sweden. I found inner peace and deeper understanding. The next year, I went again unexpectedly. A dear friend needed to go, so I guided her and spent two weeks at the Casa.

During that visit I was given permission to bring a group to see John of God. Would you like to join me? If you feel interested and want to learn more, please visit the “John of God Healing Journey” link on my website: LauraBushnell.com. If you have any questions or would like to register for the trip, please e-mail Joy, my assistant, at joy@laurabushnell.com or call (323) 654-9010. I would love for you to join us on this sacred journey! ■



Laura Bushnell is a pioneer in personal growth and spirituality. For over 40 years she has worked with Fortune 500 companies, professional athletes, President’s youth groups, and many in Hollywood, as well as giving over 35,000 private consultations and public lectures. Laura is the author of You Are a Rose, Life Magic, and The Gift. For more information please visit LauraBushnell.com. Excerpts from Life Magic are available on Amazon.com.

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