

### Unsung Heroes

Recently, the church held a pastors retreat in Altamira. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and we had about 30 pastors in attendance, along with their spouses. It is hard to imagine that less than 20 years ago, not one Vineyard church existed in Brazil. When I look back at all that has been accomplished, it is obvious that it was not the hard work of just one person. Over the years, several missionaries have come and gone, there has been many passionate nationals that love the Lord, dozens of short term teams and many pastoral visits, however there are other important groups much less visible.

These are the groups that serve on Mission boards or advisory boards in Canada or the U.S. These are the folks that are committed to praying each day for the mission, its leaders and pastors. Then there are those that are committed to giving financially. I am convinced that if we took any one of these “lesser noticed” ministries out of the equation, the mission would be less successful. It reminds me of what Paul teaches when he reminds us that it takes many different parts to be a body. I pray that God blesses each person as they serve in the way that God has asked them. I also pray that they reap the same sense of joy that I have when I look at a photo of the many leaders that have been raised up in the Xingu region, knowing that they were used in Gods great plan.

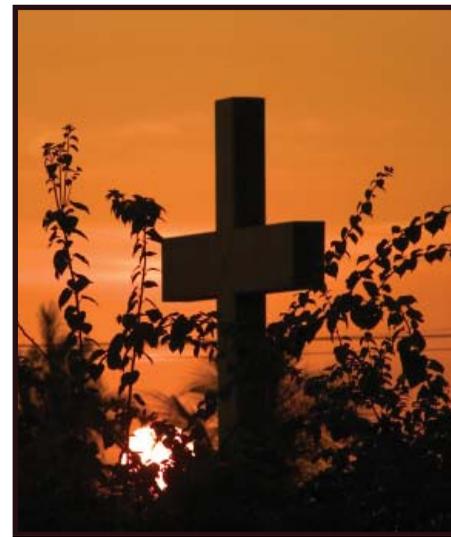


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# Xingu Mission Field Report

*Xtreme Mercy*  
*Planting Churches and*  
*Training Leaders*

## Narrow and Deep

I, Richie Bouthillier, remember as a young person in the church reading articles and hearing discussions to promote short term missions. At the time, some folks viewed it as a frivolous excursion at the church’s expense, and at the heart of the conversation was the question, “would it be better if we just sent the money?” Looking back, I would say the pendulum has definitely shifted. Short terms missions gained respect as a viable, healthy

form of ministry within the church. For several years now, I would say it has been generally accepted. However, based on conversations that I have had with multiple individuals, and the questions they are asking me, I ponder whether the pendulum is not starting to shift again. Many people ask the question, “ Why, what is the benefit?” I would respond to that by saying the question is not why but



Vineyard Columbus 2012



Vineyard Church of Delaware 2013



### Narrow and Deep cont.

rather how. "How can we be a benefit?" Several years ago a dear friend and personal mentor of myself, Danny Meyer, used a term that I was unfamiliar with at the time. He said, "I want to do missions narrow and deep." Over the years we have hosted several teams from Danny's church and I would like to explain



Missionary Richie Bouthillier baptising one of the community leaders in the Xingu River

what that means and how it has played out in practical terms. Firstly, I would like to address the narrow. Today many churches are doing what I call the shotgun approach to missions. Everyone has an uncle or cousin somewhere doing missions. As a result many church boards spread the resources thin. Fifty dollars goes to Bob in Tanzania, two hundred to Aunt Lucy in Korea and seventy five to Phil in India. Once a month their name appears in a bulletin, Please pray for the (insert last name) in (insert country)

and may be a sentence about a prayer need or accomplishment. Each month on missions Sunday missionaries take turns getting their name in the bulletin. During the year there maybe one or two projects to raise money for Bibles or a building. The church gets exposed to many works and cultures around the world but most likely there is a very low emotional connection. Narrow on the other hand says we want to make a difference in this country and we are going to focus time and resources like a laser because we are called to make a difference. A specific country becomes the focus as well as working with a specific group of folks in relation to the target country. Now the deep. Deep as I see it has to do with relationship. A relationship with the expats and the nationals in the country. A deeper understanding of culture and a deeper understanding of context. Let me just say that money can never replace relationship and relationship is the greatest of all resources. Over the years churches that have



David Welker of the Vineyard Cleveland preaching



Vineyard Columbus team on the Marantha III 2004

done the narrow and deep have not only built deep relationships with the missionaries and the nationals but have been able to minister on a deeper level. The teams minister on a deeper level because they have been better prepared to fit into the cultural context and trust has already been established by leaders. The churches with a continued focus on a single country now have an outlet for potential missionaries and several of our missionaries caught the vision through repeated exposure to the field on a short term trip. I would also say there is a higher level of integrity on both sides because of the relational aspect that gets built. When I speak of benefits I am merely scratching the surface and merely highlighting a few key standouts. Another exciting outcome which only now after several years (about 15) is the relational bond that exists between national leader that have been raised up during this period and the team leaders themselves. Some of the Pastors who originally

hosted teams several years ago are passing the torch on to other members of the church so that they can now come for brief periods and serve as mentors and coaches of the nationals whom are now planting Narrow and Deep or helping lead the movement. In closing I also must say that I have benefitted greatly from these teams through mentoring, friendship and financial support.



Missionary Terry Price praying



Olivia from Vineyard Columbus praying for a Pastor during a conference