

Why I Love Missions

1. We are obeying Jesus by going into the world and making disciples. The best way to make disciples is to live among the people who you are trying to reach.
2. Church planting is the best way to help the poor. We can do flood relief, computer skills or water filters. But if that is all we do, it will all fade. Planting a vibrant church, whose followers are passionate to obey Jesus, changes communities. We have seen the Lord do this. Lives are put back together...marriages are put back together...generational curses of poverty can be broken this way.
3. This is a very challenging, difficult and rewarding job and lifestyle.



One of the things that bewilders me is that people are not knocking down the doors to apply to be missionaries. I think that day is coming. Here at the Xingu Mission we are working our hardest to prepare well to help many more people do what we are doing. "The fields are ripe for harvest. Now."

I will repeat a short message I heard somewhere this furlough. I don't know who this originated with, but it resonates true with me.

1. If you can come, come.
2. If you cannot come, join us by sending your money.
3. If you cannot send any money, join us by praying for us.

If this resonates true with you, pray to the Lord for specific directions. We look forward to hearing from you. --- Rick Bergen

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Xingu Mission

Field Report



Xtreme Mercy
Planting Churches and
Training Leaders

Cupi - Lucinea



Recently Bud Simon went on a trip to Cupi, a small community that is about 10 hours away from Altamira by car. After leaving the car along the river, you get into a small canoe and travel about another four or five hours to arrive at the community.

Along the Iriri River there lives a woman named Lucinea. Lucinea committed her life to Christ about two years ago. She never had any real exposure to the Gospel, living in a remote area. She had never heard a clear and simple presentation of the Gospel until a team from our church visited the community where she lives. She gave her life to the Lord and made a change. She is married and has two young children.

We continued to disciple Lucinea on a regular basis. Even though Lucinea does not know how to read, she has a strong desire to grow in her relationship with the Lord. We were able to get a "Proclaimer" for her. A "Proclaimer" is a solar powered audio presentation of the Bible. Lucinea took that tool and every night gathers her family together and listens to Scripture. Then, once

or twice a week, she will sit down with others in her community and they will listen to the audio Bible together.

In this simple way, she has transformed her own life radically. She has a sparkle in her eye, a smile on her lips and a zest for life that did not exist before in her life. And, she has stepped out as a leader for her community. She willingly and graciously shares that which has changed her life.





Just a couple months ago, we celebrated the change in Lucinea's life by baptizing her in the river in front of her community. "Many things have happened on this beach, but this is the first time anyone has ever been baptized here." This was the comments of those that watched. The transformation in Lucinea's life is bubbling over to her community and making a real difference. We are delighted to see God's plan being realized



Bud Simon baptizing Lucinea

in the lives of these people. We reach out with the Gospel to people who have never heard it. People receive the Gospel and it changes their lives. They take that which they have received and start sharing it with others. The change begins to multiply into a Kingdom work in the lives of other.

Ivanildo and Monica

Five years ago Ivanildo was a bartender in the army. He was assigned as a soldier up on the frontier before being transferred to work at the bar in an officer's club near Altamira. He was

famous for being great on the barbecue and a wild man at parties. But there were some big disasters looming on his horizon. For one thing, his marriage to Monica was just about over. For another thing, his job with the army was just about done and he was drinking heavily. Monday nights he liked to come to the Bergen's to drink chimarrão tea and swap yarns with a group of guys from the neighbourhood. We were studying the Bible, but the ice breaker questions and the fellowship were the really good part. Clyde and Kelsie Bergquist were new in Brazil during this time, just learning the language. Clyde came to those Monday night meetings as well. Both of these families are now working hard, along with us Bergens, to plant



Ivanildo and Monica

the first Vineyard Church here in Marabá. This young church has grown steadily during our three month furlough, both in numbers and in maturity. We are amazed, we could almost say astonished, at how the Lord pulls people together and makes us family. This is true for all the supporters who work with us behind the scenes, and for all the church planting force, the mission and local



Ivanildo grading the land at the Marabá base

leaders who are working together to spread the light of the gospel by planting churches in dark areas. We are so very grateful for each of you who are pulling with us.



Tim Kubacki teaching

Training leaders

In October in Porto de Moz we presented an eighteen hour workshop for a small group (15) of our leaders. The course was on Vineyard Values, the Kingdom of God, leadership, small group ministry, and leading a small group. This excellent

course was translated by Elba Dolan from material given to us from Vineyard Columbus and Vineyard Church of Delaware County. The participants received the material with much enthusiasm and interaction. We (the missionaries) were so encouraged by both how the material was received and the obvious hunger of the participants for more of the Kingdom in their lives and ministry. We loved presenting this material because we were able to communicate our hearts through the course. We see the Kingdom as primarily spreading in this region of the Amazon through relationships (with our Father and with each other) developed and nourished in small groups meeting in homes. We each desire to pour into a few hungry people and we were able to communicate this same vision to the participants. We hope to see most of the participants leading small groups this year and we already have about twenty people signed up for this same course in February.

We are also currently mentoring about 25 individuals and training them to mentor others on a one on one basis. With a primary emphasis on these two ministries, we are seeking to develop leaders who will carry on the work of the Kingdom in this region of the Amazon for the foreseeable future.



Future leaders receive certificate of completion