

## Empowerment *cont.*



Prayer before soccer game

pastor of the Mirante Church in Altamira said, *The people in our church were so encouraged by Ivanildo and Monica's testimony. It is causing many of them to seriously consider church planting in another community.*

One day while I was visiting Marabá in September Ivanildo said to me, *Your friend came by with a boa constrictor he caught on our property. He wanted to show you but since you weren't around, he wanted me to give you this photo.*



Pastor Ivanildo holding a boa constrictor

Our family left in June for furlough while our girls attend one year of *brick and mortar school* in Canada. This is an immersion course in church planting for Ivanildo and Monica. On the phone Ivanildo tells me, *We are so tired! We never imagined training leaders could be this much work!* At the same time, *Can we use your truck to do some survey trips so we can start planting churches in the interior?* Please pray for them and for all the young Brazilian pastors and leaders.

*Rick Bergen*

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# Xingu Mission Field Report

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

## Empowerment

*I am going to put you in a different discipleship group, but don't get mad! I will make sure your leader will study the Bible with you each week. Ivanildo is walking around the soccer field and Marabá campus in September with a clipboard and pencil. Teen-agers are becoming bible study leaders, knowing just a little more than the small groups they are teaching. Later over 100 youths participate in the Saturday night church service. Sunday morning about 15 young people show up for a three-hour leadership class. Sunday night is our main weekly service. There were about 150 people in attendance.*

When I saw all these little meetings going on, and watched how Ivanildo and Monica were trying to model living as a Christian family I thought, *This is going to work out OK.*

I remember when Ivanildo showed up in Altamira at our Monday Night Men's Group bible study, *Please pray for me. I am a bartender at the army base. My marriage is really in trouble.* Before this he was in the special forces and before that he broke wild horses on his dad's ranch.

Now it is hard to imagine he has not been a Christian all his life. It is such a pleasure planting the Marabá church and regional center together. We ordained Ivanildo and Monica as Senior Pastors in the beginning of this year, 2011.

This summer Ivanildo and Monica were able to bring a team of 27 young leaders from Marabá back to their sending church in Altamira. This involved a 27 hour bus ride over very treacherous roads. Elba, the

*(Continued on back cover)*



Pastors Ivanildo and Monica



## Not just another day at the beach



Baptism

Every weekend I am doing something with the children in my neighborhood. On Sunday we often go to the beach along the Xingu River. The first Sunday of October was not just another Sunday at the beach for me. The Praião Church had a baptism and it was very special to me because the three children you see in front of the photo (Cleio 12 - Alice 12 - Edilana 13) were baptized. They go to the Bible study group I teach. The joy I felt was overwhelming. Thank you Jesus for letting me be a part of this special day in these children's lives! *Terry Price*

**A Day at Home:** Every weekend there are a dozen or more children in my yard playing with Legos and various games. One day I heard one of the children talking with their friend about not eating this day or that day. This is why, on the weekends, I have started fixing lunch for the children that are hanging around at lunchtime. A few weeks

ago, when lunchtime rolled around there were still 10 children in my yard. I cooked up a big pot of spaghetti and some garlic bread. One of the children, who comes to my bible study group, asked if they could bless the meal before we ate. On this particular Saturday when we sat down at the table Alice grabbed the hand of a child that had not been there before and said; *We always pray before we eat at Terry's house.* A double blessing.

About a week before, one of the girls who stops by my house showed me some of her math papers from school. I noticed she was having some trouble with multiplication so I made her a multiplication table and showed her how to study it. She was there on this day playing with the other kids. She told me she had studied and wanted me to give her a test. How could I say no? Three others kids asked for the test too. We ended up studying math for 3 hours while the other kids played. What a strange and wonderful day. You never know how God is going to use you until you let Him. *Terry Price*



Studying math

## Disparity

I had the opportunity to travel along the river with one of my pastor friends. We visited a river community, a small village of four families, all extended family. We were supposed to meet some other people along the river but as night was setting in, we found ourselves in front of this village and stopped to ask if they would allow us to sleep there for the night. We introduced ourselves and talked about our plans for the next couple of days. We asked if we



Bud and Naldo on the Xingu River

could share our food with them. So, that evening we had fish, rice and farinha, a bran-oat like staple made from the manioc plant. I wondered what they would have eaten had we not showed up. We stayed there for a couple of nights, making some new friends and fishing together. Here is one of the things that stood out to me on this trip. These people in the village were dirt poor. They had very little income. There was around \$600/ month for the 18 people in the extended families or barely a dollar per day. They hunt, they fish, they grow crops. Medicine,

school supplies, clothing, other non-producible goods like cooking oil, were all extremely scarce. While none of them were starving, they did not have proper clothing or even rice for their families. It is tough to get filled up on fish and farinha. One of the biggest difficulties in reaching the Amazon region with the Gospel of God's Kingdom is confronting the poverty that is rampant in the region. It creates real barriers to spreading God's word that need to be overcome. While the Amazon region is filled with an amazing and bountiful beauty of creation, it often can overwhelm the stark reality of the poverty that is rampant in the region. One uncomfortable truth for many in the American church is that we are isolated from the reality of poverty, both within our own country and even more so from around the world. We need to consider the Scriptural imperative of reaching out to the poor and marginalized and consider seriously the use of our resources as we live our lives in light of eternity. "And they asked, that as part of our responsibility as representatives of Christ, that we remember the poor, in our time, effort, and giving. This was exactly what we wanted to do from the depths of our hearts." Galatians 2:10, paraphrase. *Bud Simon*



Typical house along the Xingu River