

New Base Plant - A Time to Celebrate

Its hard to believe that it has been 12 years since we moved to Porto de Moz. I can remember the feeling like we were moving to the wild west. At that time the sawmills were still in operation and most of the houses were built of wood along dusty unpaved roads. Since we came here, several missionaries have come and served in ministry building up a strong church and started other works in hard to reach villages. For the first couple of years our house felt pretty big with just Christie and myself. Three children later the house doesn't feel that big anymore. Although it is hard to leave, there is also something satisfying about finishing a race. Looking back, it feels that our time here was more about God's work in us rather than what He did through us. Almost a year ago, we handed the leadership of the ministry here in Porto de Moz to Mario and Araceli, when we began sensing the Lord preparing something new for us. By mid December, we should be living in Portel. This small city reminds us of Porto de Moz 12 years ago. We are excited that several Brazilians have sensed God urging them to go as well, and begin a new work in town and amongst the thousands of river people in the region. Plans are under way to erect a small church on the property which was recently acquired for a base. We plan to deliver the first 90 water filters to remote communities up the Pacaja river. Our hope is to build a community garden next to the church to start connected with folks in this impoverished neighborhood. Please pray and consider supporting this new base plant as we begin our new adventure. Richie Bouthillier



Waterfront at Portel



Xingu Mission Field Report

Xtreme Mercy
Planting Churches and
Training Leaders



Why We Like Church Planting

The Challenge to Make Disciples

Jesus told us to go into all the world and make disciples. The way we do this is here in Brazil is to become friends with people. As we spend time together we start rubbing off on people. For this to produce the desired results we need to be sure we are first spending sufficient time with Jesus personally. If we are empty and we try to influence people in our own strength this will become apparent. We want to be so full of the Holy Spirit that

He will leak out of us to to everyone we come in contact with.

This is a Marathon, and not a Sprint - We have the most effect on the people who are closest to us. Our children and the others in our home are our primary disciples. The next in line are the people we work with and hang out with. Even so, the going is often much slower than we hope. How often did Jesus say, "Do you still not understand?"



Making Disciples one day at a time

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Why We Like church Planting *cont.*

We are Always On Display

Today I was in the bank and in a government office. After enough trips to the same office for the same little thing I get to know the different workers. In our chatting inevitably someone will want to know why I am in Brazil. Today the receptionist commented to another official, "I thought this must be a church leader." This got me thinking how important it is how I respond to the various challenges. I am representing Jesus here. And when we get pushed over the edge, can we apologize and ask forgiveness?

A Great Strategy: Plant a Church

We love church planting. We play games together. We eat food together. We share pain when people are hurting. We celebrate babies, birthdays, and marriages. We learn how to read the Bible, and to live as Christians over



Wedding Ceremony at the Maraba Church

time. Today at morning prayer one of the mom's said, "Many of my friends told me to kill my boyfriend/husband. But he has a big family. They would have killed me. And then where would my six children be?" Three of her adolescent children were there, nodding their heads. The local church is the perfect environment to help people become who they were created to be.

Rick Bergen

The Road less Traveled



Motorcycles are great way to spread the Gospel

Living in the Amazon basin, it is easy to picture a road less traveled. They appear all around. On a road less traveled, one is able to see things out of the ordinary; plants, flowers, animals, a spring, etc. However a road less traveled also has more obstacles; tree limbs, overgrowth, dangerous animals, etc. Both the good and bad come with lots of change; it is never the same obstacle and what



Navigating the River

you see out of the ordinary is different. The same picture goes with work on the mission field and our spiritual lives. Each day brings a different scene, a new obstacle, something new to learn about God and his plan and love for humanity.

This year can definitely be defined as a year of change for the Mission. Missionaries have moved or are moving to start church plants in new regions. Missionaries have moved to different bases to begin new projects. We've received new missionaries whose lives are in the throes of change; changing of culture, change of language, etc. Missionaries that have been on extended leave and all the change that brings to their lives along with all the changes that occur while they are gone. This is by far not an exhausted list of the changes of this past year.

However, as each of us journey on this our road less traveled, change is expected and these changes show us different ways God works. They show us different facets of God's character. We get to learn about and

experience God in different ways, ways that life on a well worn path would not show. Whether God reveals himself more or we are just more aware of Him is not clear, but there definitely is something life changing and different about choosing to walk the road less traveled. It can be exhilarating and scary at the same time. But one thing is undeniable; God is with us on this path. He walked it first, knows where it goes, showed us where to get on, wove Himself into the scenery, helps us over, through or around our obstacles, and walks beside us. What a great God we serve. Please keep our Mission and each missionary that serves in your prayers. Also, Matthew 9:37 **Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."** If you are interested in serving as a missionary, please contact us at steve.dolan@xingu.org

