

Newly Revised Website
WWW.XINGU.ORG

A Note from Rick

"Go therefore, and make disciples..." this is the key commandment. How do we do this? Can we make disciples from a distance? Have we ever really truly been made into a disciple by someone who was trying to obey Jesus commandment? If so, was the experience a good one? Was it satisfactory and all you thought it should be?

I do not think making disciples is an easy or a common task. Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 4:15 *Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.*

It is something for us to ponder. Are we simply one of ten thousand guardians or do we truly have spiritual sons and daughters? Are we becoming "fathers"? Are we making disciples? If we want to be true disciples of Jesus can we afford the luxury of "private" lives?

These are some of the things I am praying about. **XM**

The Xingu Mission has its headquarters in the town of Altamira, a thriving ranching community deep in the Amazon Basin. Altamira is situated above the waterfalls of the Xingu River, a tributary of the Amazon River.

We exist to obey the commandment of Jesus to baptize, disciple and teach about the Kingdom of God. We do this primarily by **Training Leaders and Planting Churches**. We are working with Him to start a Church Planting Movement among the cities and hidden villages of the Amazon Basin, the largest wilderness in the world. We are a non-denominational, charitable organization, registered in Delaware, Ohio, USA. **XM**

First Graduating Class of ITA

One of the big and exciting things that has occurred for the mission is the first graduating class of the Institute of Theology in Altamira (ITA). ITA was conceived two year ago. This interdenominational bible school was pioneered by the local leadership team led by Elba Santos. Bud Simon is the President and he helps with the major decisions and raises funds to keep the school functioning. Elba teaches theology at ITA, manages the personnel and oversees the day to day operations.



The graduation was filled with great joy and excitement. The students and the staff put many hours into preparing the graduation. The graduation gowns were sewn by hand, and all decorations were prepared by the students. The guest speaker came from Belo Horizonte. After the graduation we celebrated together with a banquet at a local restaurant. The graduation was attended by different pastors of many local churches in Altamira, as well as the family and friends of the graduating students.

One of the Xingu Mission's main purposes is to educate new leaders and train them to go out and make other disciples for Jesus Christ. This first graduation for the Xingu Mission and ITA was a step forward. We are praying that the training the recent graduates received from ITA will be monumental to the community. May these new graduates impact the country by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One graduating student is now pastoring a church and several others are serving various churches in worship, community development and other ministry functions. **XM**

XM FIELD REPORT



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Prayer Requests:

Matthew 9:37-38

• Workers

1. More Brazilian leaders
2. More "long-term" missionaries
3. More individuals and churches who will join with us in:

- prayer,
- finances,
- Encouragement/ books, teaching material, etc.
- Work and ministry teams

THE XINGU MISSION

Spring 2003

XM Field Report

Year 4, Issue 1



Christoval 2003

Simple acts of kind behavior changed the lives of Orlando and Teresa who went to Christoval. Before coming to Christoval, this unsaved couple was living together out of wed lock. They decided to "sacrifice" their time by not celebrating Carnival with their friends and spend it with a bunch of unknown people that praised a God they knew nothing about. They were so leery about spending three days in a building with 50 other people. Past experiences of sleeping in a large area with a lot of people had always been terrible. Every time they traveled things would just disappear from their suitcase. Before coming to Christoval they expected the same and prepared themselves for their belongings to be stolen from their suitcase.

brate Christ rather than the evils that are presented by the Brazilian holiday of Carnival. Carnival means "of the flesh" and of the flesh it is. Carnival is a week of reckless behavior in the streets filled with lewd acts of sexuality which the government sponsors by handing out condoms for free.

We boarded up the boats and headed ten hours down river to our training camp. We had a great time of fellowship with one another. Over 200 people came to the outreach. We played various games such as soccer, and volleyball. We also played an intensive Bible knowledge game called "Sword Drills", where we would give a clue

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Christoval is a church retreat designed to cele-



Christoval 2003 (con'd)



Orlando and Teresa at their wedding

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about an event in the bible. Everyone would look to find the scripture that best represented the event and shout out the answer. It was a great sight to see so many people hurrying through their bible to find the answer, and then watching the emotional outbursts for the winner. The Lord is really on fire within this community of believers.

Each morning we woke up to worship the Lord and then ended the day by worshiping Him again at night. Throughout the whole day people were just enjoying the amazing community that Christ has placed upon the earth.

Pictured to the right are the Xingu Mission fleet of boats accompanied with their dedicated servants of the Lord. As the fleet continues to increase we are experiencing faster church planting growth and more effective means to train our current and new leaders. The boats names are as follows. The Maranatha I, Maranatha II, Maranatha III and now Stuart Towns boat, the Marantha IV. Plus, we also own the smaller Servo Fiel and Amigo de Deus boats, sponsored by Project WorldReach.

Before leaving Christoval, Orlando and Teresa, checked their suitcases and found that nothing had been stolen. They were trying to comprehend their thoughts about their new friendships and what they had heard about Jesus. They wanted more and they wanted to become just like the people they met at Christoval. Immediately after they returned home they both accepted Christ into their hearts. An amazing part of the sanctification process started when they decided to stop living in sin and be married, two weeks later.

Simple acts of kindness and Christ filled living changed the lives of these two people forever. They are now on the right track and Jesus with all the angels are rejoicing in heaven.



While people back in Altamira were giving their lives over to their flesh and to the ways of this world, some of our new Brazilian friends were making decisions to follow Jesus. God is so good and His anointing upon this time was felt throughout each one of us. We just pray that the ones who were in Altamira at the Carnival will find that that life style will not fill the desire of their heart and that they will come to know the Living Water, and they will drink of it, and never be thirsty again. XM



Altamira Training Center

BY RICK BERGEN.

Altamira residents claim this municipality is geographically the largest township in the world. It extends hundreds of kilometers South up the Xingu and the Iriri Rivers. It also extends some distance North towards the Amazon River, and East and West along the Trans-Amazon Highway. This city of about 75,000 residents is locally known as the Capital of the Trans-Amazon highway. People come from far and wide to use the services of the two universities; four hospitals, five grocery stores and numerous saddle shops.

Since moving to Altamira in 1994 we have envisioned a Training Center where we can have Leadership Conferences, Family Camps, Youth Camps, Marriage Seminars, and English Intensives with an evangelistic tone. We have prayed and sought the Lord about where to build this camp.

In year 2001, through three very generous donations, we were given a large abandoned ranch six kilometers from town. Our first task was to build 3.2 kms of fence along the road to establish our ownership of the land. Our second task was to survey the 5 km perimeter to establish the boundary lines.

We are already using this site for prayer retreats. I am sure it will become an invaluable tool in Training Christian Leaders in the Xingu Region. XM



Rick Bergen walks the property line with Pedro, the topographer and Cilas, the project overseer. Bud Simon was also along, and took the photo. We found out the neighbours have been invading this property from the back. We are re-establishing the fenceline.

Current Mission Needs

- **Bibles and Literature**
- **General Fund**
- **River Church Construction Projects**
- **Aviation Fuel & Maintenance**
- **XM Field Report Newsletter**
- **Souzel church-planting budget—\$150/month**
- **Vitória church-planting budget—\$150/month**
- **Finish office HQ building US \$10,000**
- **Furnish office HQ building US \$10,000**
- **Tractor for Porto Do Moz training site**
- **MORE CAREER MISSIONARIES**



THE XINGU MISSION

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Response Form

Please send me this monthly newsletter. I would like to pray in an informed way for the people of the Amazon.

I would like to support the following project or missionary financially.

One Time Gift \$ _____

Monthly Support \$ _____

Projects	Missionaries
<input type="checkbox"/> Gen. Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Bergen
<input type="checkbox"/> Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Simon
<input type="checkbox"/> Church Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Hansen
<input type="checkbox"/> Boats	<input type="checkbox"/> Bouthillier
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Town
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible School	<input type="checkbox"/> Gil
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Dolan
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

E-mail us for information about Canadian donations.

For a tax-deductible receipt, please make US donations out to the Xingu Mission, clearly designating the specific fund on separate paper.