

## Being a New Missionary *cont.*

I've been here for almost 7 months now, and I could certainly go on and on about the many changes I've experienced. I am in the long process of trying to learn a new language. Everyday, I learn a little bit more about where to find things in my city. I've learned how to drive a motorcycle. I've learned what to expect from the weather. I've learned that your clothes get stretched out when you don't use a dryer. I've eaten more different kinds of fruit than I ever knew existed. Seriously, the list is eternal.



Hut in Maribel

And after 7 months of trying to get accustomed to my new land, I have found that the delight that seemed so void in the beginning is starting to appear. Not because of the place itself, but because this is where God wants me to be. My heart has expanded into allowing him to be my reason, everyday, for being alive. God is using me in this place to bring about his Kingdom. That is the goal and that is the joy. As this place has challenged and stretched me, my capacity has grown for allowing God to work through me.

What I think is common about the "being a new missionary" experience is confrontation. Whatever parts of your character are weak will certainly be revealed. What's really in your heart will be exposed. It is not fun, but it is absolutely worth it. If you allow yourself to be transformed by it, true delight will follow.

Is the Lord calling you to missions? Contact us and we can help you through the process.

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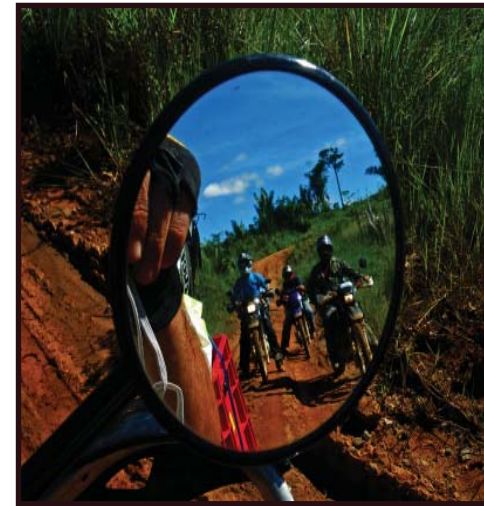
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In 2009, we (Clyde and Kelsie Bergquist) began a journey to seek Gods call for our family within Xingu Mission. Clyde searched out a few areas without churches that he felt the Lord leading him to.

We felt the Iriri region was on God's heart and visited as a family. By September 2010 we moved to start our journey. Maribel was like the "wild west" with alcohol and gun and machete fights even killings. A family member who was saved in the Altamira Central church wanted to see her family saved.

# Xingu Mission Field Report

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

## Maribel

She and Pastor Clenildo and others from Altamira made the initial visits before we moved out there. Today we have 5 couples and their large families making a normal service about 40-50 people.

We felt it necessary to make an impact by living among the river people on the Iriri river. To work along side them, be there to disciple, feed and train the leaders. Our vision is to raise up leaders to take up the vision the Lord has for the Iriri region. Sunday services are held in the



Church on the river



The man in the middle accepted Christ as everyone prayed for him.



### Maribel cont.

homes of the people. Currently we are building a church building that is nearly complete. We are holding a weekly bible course, a children's bible study, and guitar and voice lessons as part of our exit plan in 2015 or as the Lord leads.

Most adults in our church are illiterate and desire to read the Bible. It was a desire of ours to strengthen them with being able to read and study the Word of God. We started a literacy class once a week teaching them to write and



Our co-leader Chico, learning to write at the age of 45+ years of age! His greatest desire is to read and study the bible so he can share the word.

read. So far we have 5 adults who are 40+ years in age, who happen to be our future leaders.

We have several new Christians that we are starting discipleship with. We are excited about the growth and how the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding us through this journey.

Some days are challenging as every day



The Maribel church all covered and giving a final pose.

has a lot of manual work. Power comes from a generator at night for a few hours. Kelsie and the kids wash clothes in the river and Clyde always has a project going. We are 3-4 hours away from medical facilities on a hard road. But the people are so special and make the challenges worth it!

We could not do this if it weren't for the call of God and His grace on our lives and your prayers and support! Keep Maribel and the work on the Iriri in your prayers as we make Jesus known among the people.

### Consider supporting one of the below church projects

- Brasil Novo - Church - \$5,000
- Maribel - Floor, Doors, Windows - \$3,000
- Pacajá - Structural Roof Beams - \$4,000
- Pacajá - Cement Floor - \$2,500

•Support a Missionary  
Email [steve.dolan@xingu.org](mailto:steve.dolan@xingu.org) or visit our website at [www.xingu.org](http://www.xingu.org) for more information.

### Being a New Missionary

I (Allison Rupert) don't think any two people have the same experience of being a new missionary. Each perspective is so unique with its own expectations and past. So, I will do my best to write of what this experience has been like for me.



Allison Rupert

Being a missionary has been a life long dream and calling. Its been my heart's desire to encounter new people and new ways at living life. I've always wanted my life to be an adventure. So, the real question is, now that I'm here, is it everything I thought it would be? Yes and no.

When I first got here, I expected to have some big explosion of delight. I expected it to be like stepping into an imaginary land where everything you touched was enchanted. But instead, I felt lost and disoriented. There were many changes to be sure, but they exhausted me rather than excited me. Instead of enchantment, everything looked mundane and ordinary and

real. It was then that I realized that I had been holding on to this dream for so long, that I had started to put my trust in it. I had started to believe that it would be my salvation. This, of course, was not at all true.

But God used this disappointment to confront me. He painfully reminded me that my salvation and delight and enchantment can only come from him. I was thankful for this challenge because I knew God was using it to, once again, transform my heart. He reminded me that my true home will never be on this Earth. This is a temporary assignment. Heaven is the only real resting place, and I need to start making my home there now.

Along those same lines, God also began to confront my selfishness. Here in Brazil, the people share almost everything. The high boundaries that we have in the States against things and time and space operate here at a much lower level. I realized how much my daily life had always been about me.

Being single makes it even easier to fall into this category. Here, I have been given many opportunities to see outside of myself to the needs that surround me. When I cook, I'm not just cooking for myself. When someone isn't getting the water that comes from the city (which happens often), they come over to your house to take a shower or fill up their jugs. When someone has a personal disaster that is too big for them to handle alone (which happens often), we all pitch in to try and help financially or otherwise. Your role within the group is just as important as your own individuality.