

What is a Missionary?

What do you think of when you hear the word “Missionary”? Do images race into your mind of awkward looking families dressed in lederhosen whose prayer cards are attached by red wool umbilical cords to faded world maps? A big misconception is that we need to leave all, relocate ourselves to a distant land and live in an adobe house in order to be on a mission. One of the lessons that I learned over the years is that it isn’t as much about location as it is vision. Jesus said “ look at the ripe fields ready to harvest” (my paraphrase) Obviously, he was seeing something beyond the physical and relating it to the spiritual. Being a missionary is about looking at the world and seeing an opportunity to bring others into the kingdom. That is really what missional vision is. It is seeing the opportunity not just to sow but to reap. Who is called to missions you may ask? I believe all true believers are called to be missionaries. The word I see is “go” and as I said, that may not be overseas, it may very well be across the street to your neighbor. Another great lesson I have learned from others is that it isn’t as much about ability

as availability. Definitely finances are part of having a mission ethos, however, for many people time is the greater sacrifice. Many times we may feel we have little or nothing to offer. This is actually a great place to be since we can offer ourselves emptied out and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. If you don’t have sight of it yet, ask for vision. If you have vision, then make yourself available. Let’s see where that takes us. **Richie Bouthillier**



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Xingu Mission Field Report

Xtreme Mercy
 Planting Churches and
 Training Leaders



Passing the Torch

The Iriri River, known for its lush, jungle-canopy landscapes, rapids and gigantic rocks. It runs for over 1,200 km before it flows into the Xingu River, above Altamira. Along this river, deep in the jungle, is Maribel. This community has a history as a violent sawmill town, boasting 10 bars, excessiveness of all sorts, and occasional murders. Many folks in this region avoided Maribel because of its dangerous reputation. In recent years this community has dwindled from about 60 houses, to about 80 residents.

The gospel arrived here when a local, young lady, got saved in Altamira. She felt compelled to take the gospel back to her family and friends. Pastor Clenildo and others came and

shared with these rough and lost people at her request. Slowly the Word of Life trickled in and began to change hearts. In 2010, we moved our family into the community to live among these people. We felt it was important to live and work alongside them, rather than just visit here from time to time. These river people became like family to us. Today former alcoholics and hard-hearted, hurting men and women form a body of believers who are walking in the Light, and who have a vision to share Jesus to all who live in their region. We have been working in 20 different river communities with them. God is moving even out in the most remote of places.



Chico and Nilza are our Maribel leaders who will continue to have services, plan mission trips, and serve the church body



Group receiving their certificates

Passing the Torch

These people now have a bible course on DVD. They study the Word from Genesis to the Resurrection and memorize scriptures. Illiteracy is a huge obstacle for these new believers as less than 50% of the group can read. Having this course on DVD is a huge blessing. We trust that the work here will continue even in our absence, because we sense God leading us back to the United States to begin a new ministry there. We feel so honored to have served these amazing people, as well as to have served with the Xingu Mission all these years! Please pray for the young group of believers in Maribel, and please pray for our family too, as we transition back to the United States.

Clyde and Kelsie Bergquist

We want to thank the Bergquists for their sacrifice and service to the mission and church. They will be missed greatly. XM

Marabá Church

Planting Churches and Training Leaders means investing in people's lives, and supporting them as they learn to do the same to those around them. As a group of people learns to do this together, it can lead to interesting results, such as an unexpected outcome of our church work projects.

The building our church meets in is a large cinder-block edifice with unfinished walls



Pastor Ivanildo putting plaster on the walls

and open gables. When the weather is stormy rain mists over the congregation while in muggy weather hoards of stinkbugs sometimes enter the church, bringing with them (no surprise) an unpleasant odour. Bats and butterflies follow the insects in, and they try to help us out. It almost sounds romantic, but as my eyes are closed and my arms are spread wide in worship and my mouth is open in adoration of our Lord...I may inadvertently swallow a bug! Our leadership team decided the auditorium was a priority, and they began the process of upgrading this room. Our church started a month of week-end workdays, with everyone challenged to provide cement, elbow grease, or to help cook a hearty lunch for all who show up to help. Our church considers themselves a huge family, and for some this church feels like their only family. Pulling together around a work project or common goal brings many people a satisfying sense of belonging. The side effects of this project surprised us. Sunday attendance is up, and the atmosphere in the church is taking on a new buzz (this time it's not

the stink bugs!). The whole group feels excited to see our church building improving. We are still believing God for further improvements, including a kitchen and a caretaker's cabin, but for now everyone is very pleased to feel our church "growing up", and to be part of a group who values Planting Churches and Training Leaders. *Jen Snell*

Baptism Pacajá



Missionary Keith and Pastor Ferreira baptising

Pacajá is coming up on the two year mark as a church plant. We really saw a growth spurt in the last six months once we were able to get a building up. We spent hours of personal sweat and hard labor constructing a multi-purpose building, but left ourselves free to take a break at any time to talk with a neighbor or passerby that wanted to know what we were doing and why we were building instead of hiring someone. This caused a good amount of curiosity about who we were and why we seemed to be different.

Building relationships is a primary goal of ours in church planting. We, the church, are not relevant unless we are present outside our walls and making relationships so that they can see Christ in us and not just hear about him. There are non-visible walls where we are planting churches between "the church" and the "non-believer". There seems to be a cultural idea that before one can enter into church or a relationship with Christ, one must pay their dues like stop smoking or drinking or wear better clothing. We want to be different. We want people to see that Jesus loves them and died for them just the way they are. The only way for us to show them is to live it in front of them, loving them the way they are and building a friendship.

Through all that, we recently held our third baptism and baptized nine believers. We chose a national holiday so that the majority of our church family could celebrate together, because it is worth celebration. May God continue to bless these people with His presence and may God continue to put the unreached in our path.

Keith and Marsha Wilson



Praying for the people who were baptised in the Pacaja River