

The Call

were few, but the harvest was great. Through this process, I have definitely had to learn to hand my thoughts over to Jesus, and to allow him to guide me. Although there are still a few places that we want to visit, we believe at this point, that God is calling us to Macapa.

During our time in Macapa, we both felt God speaking that this was the church that we were being called to. It's a small church of around 25-30 people. The majority of the church is young adults and young married couples. Denise and I both felt very at home within this crowd. We also felt like there was a massive amount of potential with this group. They were extremely hungry for God but in many ways were lacking direction. We feel that we could really assist in this way. We also connected right away with the pastor. Pastor Felipe is a true warrior for God. He is doing an amazing job with the resources he has.

While in Macapa, Denise and I felt such an ease and comfort ministering to the people there. Almost as if we were pieces being fitted into the right puzzle. It felt extremely natural to function as part of the Macapa community. Although we have a long road ahead and many things need to be sorted out, we believe that God is walking with us and directing our steps. We couldn't be any more excited to start this new adventure. *Christopher Meyer*



Our new friends in Macapá



Pastor Felipe and his family

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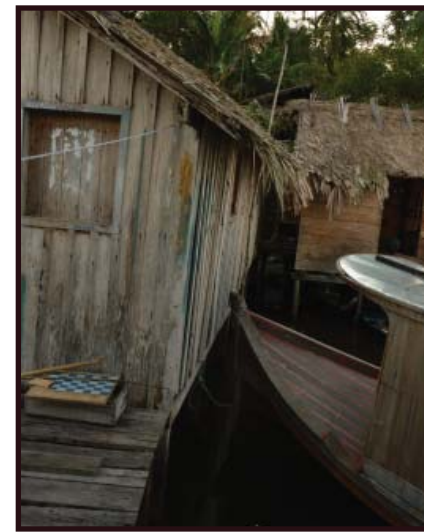
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XM Field Report

Planting Churches & Training Leaders

A Season of Change

A few weeks ago, Suzanne and I celebrated 20 years of living in Brazil. Most of our adult life, our married life, and ministry life has been spent here in Brazil. We have been living in the same place in Altamira since 1996 when we came here as part of a church planting team. It has been a wonderful journey as we have been part of this community and been part of a growing family.

Part of my story here in the region has been to be an active part in the church planting efforts, often traveling a week or more each month to more distant places in the interior of our region. Teaching, training, and encouraging others are a big part of what I have done over the last couple decades. All

of that traveling has given me a wealth of unique experiences and opportunities to see God do amazing things.

I also have served as a pastor in the Altamira Vineyard church since its founding almost 20 years ago. It has been rewarding to see it grow from a small group meeting in a garage when we started to a church with two services and nearly 400 people. And, along the way, our church has been involved in planting more than 20 other churches, both in urban and rural areas.

However, in conversations with our mission and national church leaders, and considering the future of our movement of churches, it is apparent that God is providing an



The Simon Family



Bud with Clenildo. Clenildo is one of our National Leaders

Season of Change

opportunity to think about how I can contribute to the ongoing work. About five years ago, the Lord spoke to me personally and through the encouragement of those around me about pursuing formal educational training. So 2010, I began to work towards a Master's degree in Global Leadership (MAGL) from Fuller Theological Seminary. It was a distance learning program, an experience that meant that most of my work was done while on the mission field. The program has been a tremendous benefit to my perspective as I have studied under people with decades of experience. I also have had the opportunity to rub shoulders with leaders from Australia, Africa, Europe, and Asia which provides a kaleidoscope of perspectives on many issues. I was able to complete my MA from Fuller Seminary in June of 2013.

In my life journey, I believe that the Lord wants me to take the next step and embrace the challenge of continuing to integrate academic



Missionaries Clyde and Bud



Pastor Jeferson with Bud visiting churches

learning with practical field experience. After much prayer, the Lord is encouraging me to pursue a PhD in preparation for the next season of life. Some of my professors, fellow students, and others with doctorates in the field have affirmed that direction in my life. I continue to have a strong calling to be involved in missions, both in empowering people who are called to missions and also those who are in the national church context. After researching many different programs, I applied to three schools with strong PhD programs in Intercultural Studies (Missiology). I was accepted into all three programs and, ultimately offered a scholarship that will cover the full cost of tuition at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. Because of the requirements of the program, we anticipate leaving Brazil in June of this year and spending two to three years in the States doing course work, living on or near campus. After that time, we expect to return to Brazil fulltime in ministry.

Our family is really excited for this next

season of life. The Altamira church has been the church where our family has grown and we will miss everyone dearly. At the same time, we are excited about embracing this next period of life as God is clearly guiding things in this direction. We will continue to maintain our relationships with those in Brazil, through regular contact and visits. We see this as the next step God has for us to better serve in His Kingdom. Thanks for your prayers, encouragement and support as we make these next steps in our journey of faith. **Bud Simon** XM is very excited about this new journey that the Simon are embarking.

The Call



Christopher and Denise Meyer

When I was nineteen, God gave me a vision. It was a picture of me walking around with thousands of little white flags, and everywhere I would go I would plant one. But I wasn't planting these flags in the ground, I was planting them in people's hearts. After I had this picture, I asked God to show me the

meaning of the flags. He spoke to me and told me that in the vision, I was marking his territory for the Kingdom. He said that anytime I was witnessing, preaching the good news, praying for the sick or oppressed, or loving others in His name, that I would be marking his territory. This picture has become my life's mission statement. Soon after I arrived in Brazil I became friends with my future wife, Denise. It didn't take long for me to realize that Denise's desire to spread God's kingdom through loving others was extraordinary. It also didn't hurt that she was beautiful inside and out. My heart was quickly captured and I realized that this was the person who I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

As soon as we returned from our honeymoon, we were ready to move and help a church plant. After receiving council from our leaders, we decided that the next step was to begin to travel around to some of the newer church plants.

We visited places such as Maraba, Santerem, Macapa and Portel and one thing that was extremely obvious was that all of these church plants could use some helping hands. Everywhere we went, we got the impression that the workers



Christopher and Denise preaching at conference