

First Steps

The more time I spend here in this city and building the school, the more I see its fruitfulness. There are many hardships in being a missionary, but there is also the amazing gift of being apart of what God is doing in the lives of others. We are able to meet their needs in more ways than one. We are able to take part in seeing people grow to their full potential.



As I said before, we are in the process of building our own building on our church property. Our property is located in the poorest neighborhood in our city. Our hope is to give an opportunity to those who would never have it otherwise. The building is coming along slowly as we need more funds to complete it. If you or someone you know would be interested in donating to this project, please contact me or Richie Bouthillier for information on how you can help. God bless you!

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XM Field Report

Planting Churches & Training Leaders

Narrow and Deep

The black water of the river is like a mirror, reflecting the intense green of the foliage that surrounds us. The canoe lies low in the water with less than an inch between the eight of us and the river. We all joke about what might be watching us from the banks. Michael Hansen of the Delaware Vineyard (VCDC) comments that he is in awe of the colours, 'so intense they seem fake'. It's my first time traveling with a short term team on a river trip and it's our last day on the river. We've taken the canoe down one of the smaller rivers to visit an elderly lady and her husband of over sixty years. Their small wooden home lies at

the end of a 'dock' comprised of small tree trunks. I try to imagine them navigating this pathway after paddling away from the service the night before into the impossible darkness.

Michael Hansen has been to Brazil with Xingu Mission at least four times, and beyond that their senior pastor Danny Meyer has been involved for eighteen. The vision for partnership with missions at VCDC is to go 'Narrow and Deep' building deep relationships with a few missions as opposed to spreading support thin and wide with several.



Elderly woman who lives along the river



Trekking through the jungle visiting and sharing the Good News.



Narrow and Deep

For five days the team of twenty travels along the rivers near Portel delivering water filters and the gospel together, sleeping in hammocks on the boat and getting to know the habits of people who, for me, were strangers just days ago which always leads to good memories and funny stories.

At each stop we meet with the families from the surrounding houses to worship and share the good news of the gospel. Team members share their own stories of how God has changed their lives. The services are simple, and the fragrance of God's love is heady and



Missionaries Denise, Christopher and Phil visting friends along the river

sweet and many are touched by His presence, including those on the team.

It is often said that a better use of resources would be to send money instead of teams. I wholeheartedly disagree. Not only is the team a blessing to all the lives they encounter (including mine) while they are here, but the lives and hearts of the team are transformed and become bonded to the people here in way that money could never accomplish. Money can build churches and Sunday schools but it can't pray for a wizened-faced old lady living in a wooden shack somewhere in the Amazon basin. Teams build relationships and partnerships that span years and continents, something no amount of money will ever do.

Jen Snell

First Steps

We will soon be wrapping up the first semester of CDR Marajó English classes here in Portel, and it comes with a great sense of accomplishment. When I (Allison Rupert) first came to Brazil almost 3 years ago, I



Teaching English is a great way to evangelize



Fabrício teaching English

had no idea that I would one day be starting an English school. But during that time, God made it very clear that is what he wanted me to do. This past semester has been a confirmation of that calling as God's presence has been with us every step of the way.

Before we opened the school in February, we were not sure where the classes would be held as our building was nowhere near completion. We ended up finding a local university that was willing to rent us a room. The rent is not too expensive, and the room is perfect for our needs.

In the beginning, there were a lot of students who quit, which was disappointing, but those who stayed excelled and really began to bond together as a group. We had the privilege of having a children's teacher come all the way from Altamira to live here for 4 months. Her name is Manoela, and the kids just loved her. Her class was by far the most successful. Almost none of the students quit, and many of

them scored very high grades at the end.

I have also had the help of a local teacher named Fabrício. Fabrício speaks excellent English and has years of teaching experience. I could not have done this past semester without him! He will be teaching the introductory level course by himself next semester.

I have already started signing up students for the next semester that begins in August, and there has been a lot of interest. With the more time we spend here, the more we become established as a reliable presence in the city. Our integrity can have a huge impact on the city, as people are used to schools specialized schools coming and going with little regard of their effect on those they leave behind. Showing Christ-like character in our business relations draws them closer to Christ himself.

One of the benefits of opening the school is that it also opens the door to relationships. I have invited several of my students to a home group I have at my house every Saturday. It has been a great privilege to not only help them grow in their futures, but also in their spiritual lives.



Manoela teaching English