

## Missionary care

We strive to be a healthy mission that retains its missionaries. There are many reasons for missionaries to leave the field, some are unpreventable, but the majority are preventable. As has been documented by various researchers, the top three issues that cause missionaries to leave are lack of finances, family issues and relationship problems, the majority of these being preventable.

After many years desiring to do so, the mission held a missionary care retreat. The purpose of the retreat was twofold; first to provide training to better necessary skills of a missionary and secondly to provide a time to relax and connect with fellow missionaries. The retreat was held on the coast of Brazil, a place separate from our "workplaces". Pastors Craig and Linda Heselton from Vineyard Columbus came and gave training on Emotional Intelligence and opened themselves up for individual counsel as well. It was a very informative and practical time of learning how to relate better by being more aware of our own feelings and reactions and how others relate.

This is something that we would like to repeat annually if possible. As the mission spreads out geographically and adds missionaries, these retreats will increase in importance if we hope to retain healthy long-term missionaries. Contact us if you would like to learn more ways in which to help support and care for our missionaries.



Some of our Missionaries

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We have a  
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# XM Field Report

## Planting Churches & Training Leaders The Mission of our Local Church

Our mission in planting churches is to build a community that is passionate for God, is mature in their relationship with God, and produces disciples that plant churches with the same standard, thus transforming the world through love and good works for the Glory of God.

For the last three years, we have been planting a church in the small town of Pacajá. Located on the TransAmazon Highway, Pacajá is about half way between Altamira and Marabá, where we also have church planting bases. This mission statement of the local church

movement frequently comes to mind as we work to fill the gap between these other two works.

After three years of living and building relationships in Pacajá, we have a small community of believers that are growing more mature with God and are passionate for God. Now we see the opportunity opening for the church in Pacajá to start reaching out to nearby communities.

Recently we were invited to hold a service at a sawmill on the edge of Pacajá. One of the men in our church had been working



Service at the Sawmill

## The Mission of our Local Church



The Pacajá church is bursting at the seams

there and was using the changes in his life to minister to the owners and other workers there. We loaded up our chairs and went with joy as we were given the opportunity to go outside of our walls. Adding to our joy was the fact that our church members were not the majority present. There was such a good turnout as we filled the small cafeteria until it was standing room only.

Our joy comes when we get to participate in the lives of others telling them about God's love. It was exciting to see members of our church experience that joy as well. And to think, this is just the beginning for our little church to reach out.

## Loving Your Neighbor

As a mission organization, our main work is training leaders and planting churches. We also engage in meeting practical needs as they arrive. Physical needs such as food and clothing arise frequently. Other physical needs like rides to the hospital are also normal.



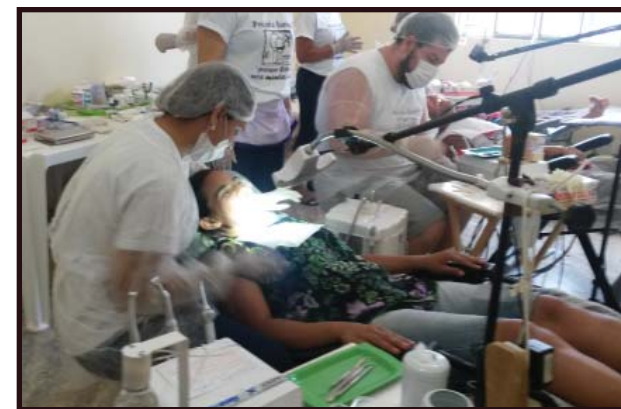
Emotional needs such as marital counseling or comforting of family because of loved ones that have passed away are more frequent than we would like. We try and help with other needs as well like English as a second language that opens educational avenues. Recently, we were donated 150 sunglasses from Restoring Vision. The Amazon Basin is an equatorial region that receives a lot of sunlight. The reality is that it is basically summertime here all year long with an average difference of two degrees Celsius between the rainy season and the dry season. Many

people in Pacajá either ride a motorcycle without a helmet or walk to their daily work, school or errands. This donation was a fun and helpful way to meet a physical need. The health benefits of sunglasses among others are reduced sun glare for proper vision, helpful especially while driving; reduced eye strain; and reduced debris in the eye, helpful especially here in our dirt road community. We are really appreciative of this donation that met a practical need.



Looking good with the sunglasses

A team of dentists and their assistants from Brasilia made a sacrificial trip to meet dental needs here in Marabá, Pacajá, and other interior villages along the Xingu River. Together with local volunteers, they set up a dental clinic to perform procedures such as fillings, extractions, and cleanings. They also held a clinic for children and taught them good dental hygiene and then gave them a fluoride treatment. After a few days in Pacajá, the team packed up their equipment and drove to



Dental Check-up

the next community and repeated their clinics. While this team was doing their road travel clinics, another team stationed themselves in another community to make molds and provide dentures. The road team trained us in Pacajá and left enough fluoride kits for us to go to two schools and help more children there. When the trip was finished the two teams had attended 405 people in their clinic providing 1244 procedures, giving 887 fluoride treatments and making 80 dentures. This was a huge undertaking and an absolutely amazing way to meet needs.



Teaching children how to brush their teeth