

Patty Fultz

Last time I was in Brazil in 2013, I was with a short-term team from my home church, Vineyard Church of Delaware County. Before that, I had served as a missionary in Altamira for 3 years, teaching English and hosting a few Brazilian girls in my home. At that time my health was a little fragile, so it seemed best to go back to Ohio. Now, amazingly, God has allowed me to live in Brazil again! This time He called me to Portel, Pará, to help with the Vineyard church plant. Richie and Christie Bouthillier are the base



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leaders here, and we've been friends for many years. Portel is a pleasant town, easy to get around for a 70 year old woman! But already I've sensed a dark spirit of mistrust and greed here. Every day, people are assaulted and robbed, and everyone seems to live in fear. We are praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over Portel and the surrounding communities. Please pray with us for opportunities to share the gospel, and that God will open hearts to His Kingdom.

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XM Field Report

Planting Churches & Training Leaders

Vineyard Church in Portel

It's now been two years since we moved to Portel with a vision to plant a church in town and begin planting in the surrounding river villages. Even though our congregation is not huge, we have outgrown the space we have in the CDR building.

This time has definitely been challenging and the lessons have been many. One of the biggest issues we deal with here in Portel is crime and violence. Quite literally on a daily basis we hear stories of people being robbed and shot. For example, one day our colleague, Patty, stepped out of our house for a walk and someone tried to steal her cell phone. That same Sunday church service was interrupted when someone came in to announce that the assistant pastor's house was being robbed as he was preaching. This week, the brother of one of the youth in our church was shot while his gang was committing an armed robbery.

Due to the wanton crime, many people are afraid to go into the neighbourhood where our church is located at night to participate in the services. Some people are afraid to leave their homes unattended to go to a home group meeting or to visit others. While on one level this is all very

frustrating, at the same time the light and love of Christ is deeply contrasted. It allows us as a church body the opportunity to bring hope to places where none exists.

As Dr. John M. Perkins teaches, poverty is not just about the lack of money but about the lack of apparent opportunities. What I love about the gospel is the opportunities it affords those who believe. The opportunity to participate in the hope of Christ, the opportunity to be saved, the opportunity to be healed, and the list goes on. As we move forward this year we will continue to spread hope. The church is not the building and the church is bigger than a neighbourhood, a city or even a nation.



Construction of Portel Church

Water Filter Project

Many of you, who have supported and prayed for the Xingu Mission over the years, have read stories about our Water Filter Project before. In years past, we saturated the Xingu River area with filters, alleviating and preventing much sickness for the people who live along the rivers (ribeirinhos). While meeting a critical health need, this project also offers opportunities to share the gospel of the Living Water that Jesus promises.

Thanks to partners like you and Thirst Relief Inc., we've been able to replicate this project in the Portel region of the Amazon basin. Benedito Santos, our project manager who moved with us from Porto de Moz, shared the following stories (translated) about our latest filter trip in May:

“The Samauma River has 20 families. Among those families, there was one that drew our attention. They live in a situation where they don't have treated water, and their children have suffered with a lot of diarrhea and vomiting. We are at the end of the rainy season, so the water surrounds their houses. When the dry season comes, it will subside back into the riverbed, leaving a lot of dirt and insects and a bad odor for the people along the river.”

“Dona Elizete told us that her children have already suffered a lot because of the water.

She was very happy to receive a filter! Access to her house was very difficult, but our team managed to deliver and install a filter there. She thanked our team over and over for their hard work. We got to see a little of her difficult daily routine, living in the interior on the river.”

In total on this trip, we blessed 90 families with water filters. Visit our FaceBook page CDR MARAJÓ to see more pictures.



Dona Elizete and her family

English School



Recent Grads of our English Program

English is currently the most influential language in the world. For those not born in an English speaking country, learning English can give them many opportunities to better their living conditions. Learning is often about empowerment, and empowering others—especially those who are less fortunate—is Kingdom work. The poor are marked by their lack of opportunities. They are marked by disadvantage. God made our task clear:

“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked”. Psalm 82:3-4 NIV

While working at CDR as an English teacher, Allison Rupert met Roná Moura. He had a love for English and a strong desire to give opportunities to others as well. After graduating

from the CDR program, he became an English teacher himself, with a special gift in working with kids. Allison and Roná were married in April.

Allison has worked in Portel for almost 2 years, and Roná joined her about 6 months ago. Their focus has been on giving the people of Portel opportunities to learn English and mark out a different path for their futures. Just recently, we were able to give several of our students a certificate for completing a portion of the CDR English program. We were so proud of them, and what's even better, they were so proud of themselves!

Now Allison and Roná are returning to Altamira, and we are asking God to send a teacher who can continue the work of helping our students learn English. Ask yourself, “How can I be a part of bringing opportunities to the less fortunate?” We can all play a role in this great mission God has given us.



Allison and Roná