

Macapá *cont.*

moment forward, our focus began to shift. We began to focus more on discipleship and leadership training. Evangelism and outreach were still important to us, but we knew that we needed to build a healthy infrastructure. It was a “both/and” type of thing.

We started new small groups; we trained our leaders on how to run a small group; we began to walk close with our existing members, discipling them on how to disciple others. We put an emphasis on building a healthy community, connecting with each other throughout the week, not just on Sunday’s and small group night. Something began to shift in the church. Church began to feel less like a “religious obligation” and more like a family.

We believe that discipleship and leadership training have had a huge impact on the church, but there was another decision even more crucial to our growth. It was the decision to always allow a lot of room for the Holy Spirit to operate. During earlier meetings with our leadership team, there was a John Wimber quote that continued to surface. “The Holy Spirit wants his church back.” We decided to cut some time off the teachings and allow extra time to invite the Holy Spirit to come minister to us and do His thing. Time and time again, He has showed up. It’s in these moments that we see excitement fill the church and people’s lives are changed.

Denise and I have been humbled by the Holy Spirit’s blessing. We have received front row seats to something beautiful. Many nights we have laid in bed giggling like little children about how fun this is and how much easier our job is when we let the Holy Spirit lead. We are so excited for what is coming next. After all, we are not only spectators in his divine plan, but have been invited to come play a part in it as well.



Church Service in Macapá



XM Field Report

Planting Churches & Training Leaders

Association of Vineyard Brazil

Plant churches and train leaders. This is our vision. It is what we come back to with every doubt of our next steps, every question of direction, and every pause for evaluation. But for most of the missionaries, if you ask them how do you do it, how do you plant churches, the answer remains the same...we don’t have a specific model or formula, we are following the lead of the Holy Spirit, sticking to the simplicity of the Gospel, and giving it our all. In our tenure we’ve seen churches planted differently, some starting with kids and remaining abundant with them, others full of the youthful vigor and enthusiasm of teenagers, some big and full of families, and still others are tiny little gatherings in hard to reach areas. Every location, every church family different from each other and yet still a family. This year

we proudly cheered as we saw the Vineyard churches in Brazil be blessed as their own family. The movement as a whole that we’ve been encouraging and working to support has officially come together and been blessed as the Association of Vineyard Churches Brazil. What a joy! This is not the end of the story that God is writing here in Brazil. The training and planting is not over. Missionaries are still needed to pioneer through God’s leading into places where nationals have a vision, but may not have anyone willing to go. Therefore we continue our vision of planting churches and training leaders to further support and encourage this movement. Feel free to contact us about joining Xingu Mission and the movement in Brazil. (Marsha Wilson)

Bergen : Rick.Bergen@xingu.org
Bouthillier: Transamazon@xingu.org
Dolan: Steve.Dolan@xingu.org
Fultz: Patty.Fultz@xingu.org
Leshner: Bob.lesher@xingu.org

Meyer: Christopher.Meyer@xingu.org
Rae: Art.Rae@xingu.org
Rupert: Allison.Rupert@xingu.org
Snell: Phil.Snell@xingu.org
Wilsons: Keith.Wilson@xingu.org

Donation in USA
Xingu Mission - PO Box 340785
Columbus, Ohio 43234



Donation in Canada
P.O. Box 14072 Trethewey PO
Abbotsford BC V2T 0B4



Praying for our National Leaders and Spouses



Worship Service at the National Conference



Family



Painting Kids Faces at the Community Outreach

After having a short term team visit Pacaja in June, one comment from the team stood out to me among them all; “It feels like you have truly built a family here, like I’ve never seen in a church.” We often think that we don’t know why God would use us; however, we know that God is writing His story in our lives and in the lives of those here in Pacaja. This church feels different than the others we’ve been involved in planting. It is a small church with diversity of age, gender, economic status, and educational status. We are walking together on this path of searching out God and reaching out to the unchurched. There is a growing passion to work outside the walls, to go where there are people in need of the hope, healing, and life that Jesus brings. The process is often slow because it is relationship based.

Together as a church family we worked to reach

out to the neighborhood where the church building is located. We held an event under the roof of our unfinished building. We offered the community various services free of charge such as simple health exams, counsel from a lawyer, records office services, haircuts and other services amongst an atmosphere of fun for the kids and a free snack. It was wonderful to see our family bring their gifts and work together to serve others. Everyone was invited back for a night of games, music, food and fellowship. We wanted and were able to create a relaxed, open environment for those in our neighborhood. A family environment is very powerful in a relational culture such as Brazil.

Our job is to cooperate with what God is doing. We get to play a part in seeing Jesus impact the lives of people. Pray for our work here and the work of the movement in carrying the simplicity of the Gospel to those in need of relationship with God.



Enjoying a game of Dominoes



The Prayer Booth was busy..Praise the Lord



Christopher teaching at the Church

Macapá

Just over a year ago I, Christopher Meyer, moved to Macapá Brazil along with my wife Denise to help a small struggling Vineyard Church. This church was founded in 2004, but has had its struggles since its birth. Our mission was to help grow and stabilize the church. Although we knew what our mission was supposed to be, prior to moving, it dawned on us that we had no



Christopher and Denise Home Group

idea what we were doing. We were excited about going to help, but we began to worry about our ability to do what we were being sent to do. After a year in Macapá, even with all our inadequacies and shortcomings, we have watched our church grow from about 20 people to over 80. We are by no means “church growth experts”, but I do believe that God has taught me a few important things that I wanted to share.

Many of the things we have learned have been through mistakes that we have made. One of those first mistakes was believing that more evangelism and outreach would automatically translate into church growth. We would hold big outreach events and parties; we would preach on sharing our faith; we would devote many days and nights to community service, outreach, and evangelism. After a few months, I began to discover that although we were seeing new people visit our church every week, these visitors were not returning. I realized that there was no system in place to take care of these new people. From that