

## Alone, But Not Alone

In this mission we have several missionary families serving in locations alone, as in there are no other foreign missionaries serving at the same location. Added to that dynamic is the distance geographically one from another. Though we work in conjunction with the nationals to plant churches, and develop relationships through the church planting, loneliness can hit because of being the only foreigners.

What can be done? How can you help?

There are several different avenues in which you can help missionaries. First is to consider serving alongside them as fellow missionaries. In Brazil, there are so many needing to hear about Jesus of the Bible. Relationship is an important value to the Brazilians, and they need to know that God wants a relationship with them. They need to see this divine relationship lived out; it speaks more to them than merely hearing about the love of God.

Secondly, you can support a family through visits. Consider joining a short term team that supports the missionary in what they are doing. Encouragement comes through the physical presence; participating and getting to know the location, culture, people and circumstances of the area being served. This supports the missionary in a unique way.

Thirdly, you can encourage through regular phone calls, messaging or sending of care packages. The missionaries work hard to keep supporters in the loop of what is happening on the ground. Frequent messages of encouragement or a quick call to see how they are doing remind them that they are part of a team, not alone.

Prayer is important. Keep up on what they need prayer for. Pray for them often.



*Team giving their testimony*

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# XM Field Report

## Planting Churches & Training Leaders

### *Year on the Field*

It is frequently said that days go slow, but a year flies by quickly. We find ourselves at the end of another year as a mission. Take a quick glance back with us.

Altamira base, which serves as a center for the church planting in the north, has been busy serving the churches in the north through conferences and retreats meant to train and equip pastors, leaders and the church body to reach out further and further with the good news of the transforming love, joy and hope that is found in Jesus.



*XM Missionaries  
 Deanna Bergen and the Raes not pictured*

A conference for the youth, a retreat for the pastors and an all church conference focused on training to hear the Holy Spirit are some of the highlights. Steve and Elba Dolan in Altamira serve the mission and the church planting movement. Also in Altamira, Art and Cyndi Rae continue to work through the local churches in helping leaders and others in the church through the living waters program.

Bob Leshner moved from Altamira to join Christopher and Denise Meyer in planting a church in Macapa. The established Macapa church has grown and now has formed a team to plant in another part of the city. Christopher, Denise and Bob will pioneer the new church plant.

Rick and Deanna Bergen in Maraba have been learning more about a church planting movement in Africa and have been involved in sharing this information with the church here in the north and have been involved in some test pilots of the program.





## Year on the Field

The Portel base has been growing and has seen a church building rise this year amongst other projects like working with a dental team on the river offering assistance to many far from any dentist. They've also fostered relationship with the Macapa church by going and helping there as well as inviting and hosting others from Macapa. Richie and Christie Bouthillier are building up local leaders through practical experience and the Portel church will be inaugurated in January 2018.

João Pessoa was released as their own base. Phil and Jen Snell are there reaching out to make relationships through different outreaches, consistently sharing the love of Jesus with those they meet. Soon Allison and Ronã Moura from Altamira will be joining them.

The Pacaja base continued to pour into the local city church and has during this year started visiting and holding services at three different interior locations. The city church shows such an excitement and participates in these outreaches. Keith and Marsha Wilson continue to serve in Pacaja.

This is just a short summary of the year. If you want to know more about the work of any location or any missionary, please feel free to contact us. We would love to give more details and share more.



Merry CHRISTmas from our XM family

## Outside the Church Walls



Keith and Marsha praying

A missionary needs to adapt to his or her host country through language, dress, customs, foods, etc. in order to build relationships and demonstrate God's love to those they come into contact with. Likewise a church needs to go beyond its walls to reach out to many who through hurt, misunderstanding, or lack of knowledge of Jesus would not step inside a church building.

The mission statement of the church briefly stated is to be a church passionate for Jesus that plants other churches passionate for Jesus. Since moving to Pacaja, we (Keith and Marsha) have focused on planting a church inside the city center that looks beyond its walls, building relationships with those far from God so that we can demonstrate God's love through our friendship, our life style and the good news of Jesus. We encourage new believers to catch

the vision of growing in Christ and sharing with others about the joy and transformation of their lives in Christ.

It is exciting to see this vision bear fruit. Together ourselves and the church are visiting and sharing the love of God with three different locations in the interior. Several from the church sacrifice their time and resources by riding out to these locations in their own vehicles to join in these gatherings where we share about God. There on the porch of someone's house or under a tree we share about the God we love and what he has done for us. It is simple. It is natural. The relationships are real and are trusted because we live life with them during these visits. Through these times together, we are seeing some hard hearts open to the possibility that Jesus is relevant and longing for a relationship. We know these hearts are opening because we see them invite others to these gatherings as well. Our relationship with Christ is not meant to be held and guarded for ourselves alone, but shared so that others may know and that requires stepping out and possibly even being a little uncomfortable.



Listening intently to the Word