April 2018

The answer is "Yes!"

One of the most difficult things that we as missionaries need to do is raise financial support. We would much rather suffer through the night outdoors in a mosquito filled area in the harshest of conditions than to approach someone and ask them to support us financially. We believe with all our heart that we are called to be missionaries as is evident through our uprooting of our whole lives to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Brazil. The difficulty lies in knowing there are many needs in the works of the Kingdom of God all over the world, so why give to this work?

To help you understand, raising funds is a necessary part of our job. Each missionary is sent by a home church that supports the missionary with some portion of their financial need. However, it is not enough for the work. As missionaries, we live by faith and we need to raise the difference and that happens by individual supporters such as yourself. We believe that God is calling all people to himself, and we are simply his servants helping to find his lost ones. Below is a list of missionaries serving who could use your support. A few of the families have recently lost a significant amount of support for varying reasons and the Moura Family may not be able to continue in the field.

We depend on donations and support from you to enable us to reach the hard to reach people of Brazil and continue supporting their spiritual and physical needs. Please do not wait to be asked, or wonder if a missionary needs financial help. The answer is "Yes", and your donation will be such a blessing to the serving missionary. Please give.

Thank you for joining with us to fulfill the mandate of Jesus to spread the Word of God to all the ends of the earth. You can make a donation by sending a check to the below address, or make an online donation at <u>www.xingu.org</u>

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

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It was a little over 2 years ago that Denise and I, Christopher Meyer, arrived in the city of Macapá. We originally came here to help the existing church. There was also an additional plan to plant more churches in the Macapá region. This second plan always seemed a bit far off. I knew that at one point we would want to plant churches, but I always looked at it as pretty far down the road. After a year and a half in Macapá, we realized that things were moving a bit



Planted!!! more quickly than what we anticipated. The church we were sent to help was doing great, the divisions in the church had subsided and the attendance had tripled. We began to realize that maybe it was time for us to start really thinking about planting. After having talks with the leadership in the church along with some of our missionary supervisors, it was decided that it was indeed time for the next step.

In December 2017 we made it official and



Macapá new church being held in Christopher and Denise's house



Christopher preaching



Macapá

along with fellow missionary Bob Lesher and 8 others we had our first service for our new church Vineyard Viva (Alive Vineyard). In the 3 months of our existence, God has taught me many things. Of the many things that he has taught me, the most significant thing I have learned is to keep my focus and the church's focus on Him. I know that this sounds simple, but let me unpack this a bit. With a new church, everyone is extremely excited with a lot of ideas. Ideas for "in church" ministries, ideas for outreach, ideas on the style in which our church will operate, ideas for everything. The temptation is to make "ideas" and "vision" our number one focus. Although ideas, vision



Christopher praying for one of their leaders



Faces of the New Church

and planning are good things, one thing I continued to hear God speak to me was that we need to be extremely deliberate in placing our focus on Him before anything else. I really sensed God saying that if our focus stays on Him, that he will bless our church.

We have already seen God's blessing on our church. Our numbers have begun to rise, but most importantly, we are seeing God come and meet and impact people. We are already seeing lives changed and this more than anything is exciting. We know we are at the first steps of a long journey and have much to learn, but we couldn't be any more excited. We feel as long as we stay connected to God and His leading, we will end up exactly where we are supposed to.

Cristoval



Cristoval- Worship in Altamira Carnival is Brazil's annual "celebration of the flesh" before the initiation of Lent on the Catholic calendar. It's a week-long party where "anything goes" and every city in the country shuts down allowing full participation by the people. HOWEVER, this year the city government here in Altamira did not have its annual carnival celebration. WOW!!! This is the first year in 14 years that I have been here that they did not have a carnival celebration. AMEN! and thank you so much for your prayers.

The Vineyard churches began "Cristoval", a retreat for youth, away from the city, with a focus on Jesus and having a lot of good clean fun. It has been a great success throughout the years, drawing youth toward Jesus and allowing an alternative during Carnival. Here in Altamira, we had Jim Anderson and his team come back and speak about his book "Unmasked: exposing the cultural sexual assault". This is such a great topic in this culture which is sexually charged and there does not appear to be many

boundaries. It is also very timely because of its complete contradiction of Carnival and the sexual temptations that lure so many to having a sexual relationship outside of God's will and purpose.



All aboard for Cristoval in Portel



Cristoval - Worshiping in Pacajá before Baptism



Cristoval Celebration in Marabá