

## End of Year Contributions

December brings thoughts of the end of the year. Many wait until the end of the year to think about their taxes and the usefulness of tax deductible contributions. The Xingu Mission, each of its bases, and all of the missionaries rely on charitable contributions to carry out God's calling to go make disciples. The practice of giving to missions and missionaries goes back to Paul and the first century Christians. The church gathered resources to support those that dedicated their life to fulfilling the Great Commission in the known



*Meeting Along the River*

world. Donations today help to continue this work as we seek those that don't know God, those that are marginalized, those that are hard to reach, all so that the Kingdom of God can advance. Fulltime missionaries depend on prayer, encouragement and financial support to meet spiritual, emotional and physical needs, so that they can give themselves fully to the work of spreading the gospel. Your giving puts you on a team that is advancing the Kingdom of God. Please consider giving a tax deductible donation. No amount is too little because it isn't a question of the amount you give, but the heart behind what you give. There is great reward in investing in the things that have eternal yield. Thank you in advance! God bless you and be with you during this holiday season and throughout the next year!



Ferreira Keith Ivan Gabriella Fernanda Marsha

# XM Field Report

## Planting Churches & Training Leaders

### Balance

One of the biggest challenges we face in pioneer church planting is balancing two primary roles. One role is serving as a catalyst to make things happen. This often involves us taking the lead, especially in the early stages when folks are newer to Christianity and to leadership. The other key role is that of equipping, encouraging, and opening opportunity for others to lead. At any given point in the process and on any given task, it can be quite difficult to know exactly how we should balance these two roles.

This journey has been full of tension as we have tried to model and lead while at the same time strived to take a back seat and gently push emerging yet reluctant leaders to the front. It's been like stepping on the gas pedal and the brake pedal at the same time. Desiring to move forward faster while at the same time intentionally going slower. Desiring to grow in our own leadership skills and experience while also trying not to establish ourselves as dominate figures. This has been quite challenging as we have never had great certainty as to where the correct balance lies. All of this tension has left us firmly dependent on God every step of the way.

We are now at a very clear turning point regarding our role in the Pacajá church plant. Ferreira and Fernanda, our Brazilian co-leaders, have now assumed the official role of senior pastors. This has been a long-time coming and we are very excited. Even in a short period of time they have taken solid steps towards embracing this role and establishing themselves as the new and growing leadership of the church. They are actively involving new leaders into their leadership team, and working to better structure and organize the church. Because of the leadership we see in Ferreira and particularly Fernanda, we believe the Pacajá church will be a growing influence in developing strong healthy churches in the region.

Our new role is to provide some continuity and mature stability while we also try to gradually distance ourselves from the daily operations, trying more and more to influence from a distance. We anticipate this will be a 2-3 year transition while, at the same time, we seek to understand where God is calling us to invest next. The balancing act continues as we try to figure out how to lead from these new roles. *Keith and Marsha Wilson*

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# Who we are and what we are doing



Richie and Christie Bouthillier and their children, Amanda, Hezekiah and Kayli are living and working in Portel, Para. They've planted a flourishing church in the roughest part of town. They continue to work on the rivers bringing health through water filters and opening doors for sharing the gospel. They are working in the specific communities of Parnauba (where there is already a church small church building), Caju, Bom Jardim, Jacararepuzinho as well as the other side of the river with small groups.



Steve and Elba Dolan along with their children Camilly and Alyssa continue to live and work in Altamira, Para. Elba is the Senior Pastor of the Mirante church there. Their church has recently planted another church in an outlying neighborhood and continues missionary trips to the Surubim. Steve is the Chairman of the Senior Leadership Team at the Mission and is the major connection between all international partners and national partners.



Christopher and Denise Meyer along with their son Jonas live in Macapá, Amapá. They are the senior pastors of the Vinha Viva church plant and also reach out with regular small groups in different neighborhoods within Macapá and in the nearby city of Santana.



Robert (Bob) Leshner lives in Macapá, Amapá. He is assisting in the church plant Vinha Viva along with the Meyer's. Bob hosts a men's group and is an example of servant leadership.



Art and Cyndi Rae reside in Piratininga, São Paulo. They are assisting the national director in pastoral care. Their primary focus is working to bring health and wholeness to the pastors in Southern Brazil through retreats, personal visits and video calls as necessary due to distance. They are working with more than twenty pastors.



Phil and Jen Snell along with the children Luke and Faith live and minister in João Pessoa, Paraíba. They minister through prayer, visits and small group teachings and dinners to prostitutes. They also continue to make many connections within the city. All this will lead to a church plant in the near future.



Keith and Marsha Wilson live in Pacajá, Pará. They are co-pastors of a church there. The church is reaching into the interior communities of Km 300 and Km 338 on a regular basis and less regular because of distance Chico Elias. The church also invests in the community through ESL classes as well as feeding and ministering to those living on the street.

## Pray you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Missão Xingu Brazil