Xingu Mission and Xtreme Mercy

April 2019

Short Term Mission Team

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

We think short-term mission teams are a great way to see the needs of Brazil, develop a heart for the people, and encourage a Great Commission lifestyle. Are you up for an adventure for the Kingdom of God? Come down and be a part of the work going on in Brazil.

Patrick Adams, who has led several teams to Brazil, wrote: "I will be leading another team to Brazil for the third time in December 2019. Here is a quick summary of why I value short-term mission trips and why you should go:

- 1. It is a practical way to embody the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).
- 2. It strengthens and deepens our relationship with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- 3. It makes room for God to use ordinary people to do some extraordinary things.
- 4. It reminds our missionaries that they are vital and valued.
- 5. It takes us out of the familiar and stretches us with plenty that is new and different.
- 6. It lets us share our faith.
- 7. It lets us give and receive love up close with our brothers and sisters in Brazil.
- 8. It gives us a chance to eat, breathe, and live in a country I love.

We need you! We want you! COME! Are you interested? Want more information? Please email Steve Dolan at <u>steve.dolan@xingu.org</u>.

Also, check out our new 2 videos about short term mission teams. You can find them at: https://xingu.org/opportunities/short-term-missions/short-term-missions-usa/

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Field Report

Planting Churches & Training Leaders

Mexicano Church

Our mission statements reads as follows:

Our mission is to glorify God by making disciples, training leaders, and planting nationally led churches that lead to movements in the Amazon Basin and throughout Brazil.

Cleiton and Cristiane have been serving faithfully as our youth pastors for many years at the Mirante Church. They are passionate leaders and love the Lord. We had a small group in a neighborhood called Mexicano about a 20 minute drive from the Mirante church. This small group has



been growing and was developing into a large congregation that was outgrowing their small wood house. We sent Cleiton and Cristiane to be the pastors of this congregation and to help in the work that the Holy Spirit is doing.

We are so excited about sending them and we are excited about what the future holds for this group of believers.

Planting churches and watching lives change to be like Christ is such a blessing and brings joy to our hearts. Please pray for them and the new Mexicano church. *Steve Dolan*



Cleiton and Cristiane

The Start of a Church



Planting Churches and Training Leaders

Macapá Church

It's been about 18 months since my wife Denise and I planted a church here in the city of Macapá. To say that this has been a learning experience would be an understatement. Although we have definitely had our ups and downs, these last 18 months have taught us so much. It has become clear to us how easy it would be to make the goal of church planting to gather and grow the church. Over and over, God has made it clear to us that that is the byproduct. The goal needs to be, has to be, pointing to Jesus and learning how to walk in step with Him. After all, it is His church, He is the great Shepherd and we are all sheep in His pasture.



Christopher and Denise Meyer with baby Jonas



Denise preaching at the church

The number one thing that has become more and more obvious is that people desire real connection with God. Increasingly, we have focused on how to organically bring this about in our church. One of our values we emphasize at each gathering is leaving a chunk of time and space for the Holy Spirit to come minister. An example would be our Sunday service as we deliberately keep our sermons somewhat short so that we can have more time to pray for one another and to invite His presence. We don't want this time of ministry and prayer to be an afterthought, we want it to be a focus. Leaving room for the Holy Spirit's movement is a huge priority in our small groups as well. A person can gain many things being part of a church. They can grow in their understanding of the Bible, be encouraged during difficult times, live with healthy accountability, and much more. These

things are good and should not be overlooked. But, above everything else, our desire has been for a person to encounter the real living God. As I said, gathering and growing a church is a byproduct. A very necessary God ordained byproduct! It naturally happens when people grow in connection to Him.

Another strong emphasis of the church has been to acknowledge how much people desire to connect with one another and to feel part of a family. This year we have been amazed by the number of people who struggle with severe loneliness and feelings of isolation. Although many of these people are regularly surrounded by others, they still feel isolated and as if no one truly knows them. For that reason, we began to invest heavily in small groups. We wanted safe places for people to come together, eat together, open up together, encourage one another and allow God to come minister. Small groups have been a huge value in our church from day one and because of this over 90% of our church are regular attenders of a small group.



We realize that these are not new concepts. That connection with God and connection to Christian community are central themes throughout the church and church history. I guess we have just realized these needs in a more profound way, now that we are pastoring a church. Although there are always decisions to be made and questions to be asked, we feel that the key will always be about connection.

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40 Christopher Meyer

