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### **Xingu Mission (Brazil) History and Fact Sheet**

- The Xingu Mission (XM) began in 1998 with the goal of planting Vineyard Churches in the remote areas of the Amazon Basin. Following the development of a national AVC, XM has sought to collaborate with Vineyard Brazil to plant churches in regions that Vineyard Brazil is currently unable to reach with its existing resources. XM and its missionaries serve as catalysts for Vineyard church planting in consultation with Brazilian leadership.
- Since 1998, Vineyard Columbus has supported and sent Ron & Tiffany Davitt (returned after 5 years), Terry Price (now deceased), Steve and Elba Dolan, and Keith and Marsha Wilson.
- Steve and Elba Dolan have been VC missionaries for 23 years. They have two daughters, Camily and Alysa. Camily is in college in Belem, and Alysa will begin college in January at Rosedale College in Ohio.
- Keith and Marsha Wilson have been in the field as VC missionaries for 22 years. They have two sons, Logan and Justin, both college graduates (Ohio State), both married. Logan, his wife, and first child are members of VC and lead a small group.
- Elba Dolan participated in planting the first Vineyard church plant in Altamira in 1998 along with Clenildo Santos (Brazilian pastor/missionary) and Rick and Dee Bergen (Canadian missionaries). Steve married Elba in 2003 as fellow church planting missionaries.
- Over the past 27 years, 34 official Vineyards have been planted, along with a few dozen "pioneer" Vineyards in river and bush villages that are visited periodically by existing churches.
- All Brazilian Vineyards have "Vineyard DNA" and kingdom theology. All churches are established to be self-governed, self-supporting and self-propagating. A number of the established Vineyards are 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation plants by established churches.

- In 2016, Vineyard Brazil was officially established as an AVC. Elba is on the National Board, overseeing the north (34 churches), and Milton Lucas is the President of Vineyard Brazil, overseeing an additional 16 Vineyards in southern Brazil.
- Marsha Wilson is the chairman of the Xingu Mission Senior Leadership Team (SLT), which oversees XM church-planting efforts and coordinates with the national Vineyard Brazil. Steve Dolan and Keith Wilson are also members of the SLT. Keith Wilson serves as President of the Xingu Mission Board in the United States.
- The Xingu Mission follows a classic church planting model as follows: [1] Plant a Vineyard in a new city or region, [2] Grow the church and implant Vineyard vision, values, practices and theology, [3] Raise up and train Brazil senior pastors and leaders to lead the new church, [4] Turn over the church to Brazilian leadership, and [5] Move to a new region identified by the National Board to start over.
- Elba Dolan has been instrumental in training Vineyard leaders from the outset. Initially, she established the ITA (Institute of Theology Altamira), a two-year Bible school. After that, she served on the international Vineyard Institute Board. As a national director, she has developed formal training programs for new pastors and leaders, instilling Vineyard DNA in every church she plants. She's translated most of VC's training programs and many Vineyard Institute courses into Portuguese for use in leader training. As a lifelong learner, Elba recently received a master's degree from Trinity Bible College.
- After planting 7 Vineyards in Altamira, Elba turned the Mirante, the largest at the time, over to her sister, who was her Associate Pastor. Steve and Elba sold their house in Altamira 2-3 years ago. They moved approximately 800 KM to Belem (by car), the largest city in the Amazon Basin (about 1.6MM), to plant the first Vineyard in Belem, the capital of the State of Pará. Vineyard Belem has been meeting for a bit over a year in a dedicated space with Brazilian senior pastors who have been identified and are soon to be released.
- About 13 years ago, after leading missions and church planting in the bush while in Altamira, Keith and Marsha rented their house (now sold) and moved to Pacaja, a small town on the Amazon "highway" (then a dirt road), to plant a Vineyard in that city. After establishing the church, Keith and Marsha identified and trained a Brazilian couple to lead it. A couple of years ago, they sold their house. They moved 900 km south to Palmas, a large interior city (350,000), to plant a Vineyard in the city center, joined last year by Abilene Santos (who had been a VC intern while attending Vineyard Institute in Columbus). They successfully used Alpha (Portuguese) to gather people, which evolved into a small group. Several weeks ago, the young church relocated to a dedicated facility and formally launched its operations. As lifelong learners, Marsha recently completed pastoral counseling training, and Keith graduated from VLI and is currently completing his thesis for a Master's degree from South African Theological Seminary after first completing a year of prerequisite biblical coursework.

- To serve the poor and open doors for church planting, the Wilson's and Dolan's (and other XM missionaries) have established CDR's (social non-profits) at their bases, often patterned after the example of the Vineyard Community Center. In partnership with Thirst Relief (a non-profit organization established by VC members), over 18,000 water filters have been built and placed in remote river villages and towns, radically improving the health of the people and giving credibility through service for follow-up visits, services, and church planting. In addition to water filters, other CDR endeavors over the years have included ESL, dental care teams, medical care, computer training, solar panels, and other social services in Altamira, Porto-de-Moz, Portel, Taquralto, Santarem, Maribel, Pacaja, and Belem.
- Since its inception, Vineyard Columbus has sent short-term mission teams to Brazil to work with the missionaries in the field. Linda and I've personally led many of those teams, traveling by boat to remote villages 15-20 hours from the nearest town, where the extent of their existence was defined by the distance they could paddle their dugout canoes. I've had the personal privilege of leading services, praying for and witnessing healing, and sharing the gospel for the first time with people crowded into tiny, candle-lit, wooden shacks. They gave their lives to Christ, and then I saw a primitive church built on stilts over the river in subsequent visits.
- I've had the opportunity to watch Steve and Elba, as well as Keith and Marsha, work as exemplary missionaries, tirelessly raising up churches, pulling up roots, and moving on to do it again. All gave up successful professional careers (Accounting and IT) to respond to God's call, to live amongst impoverished people in the Amazon Basin to serve them and bring the light of the kingdom to those who live in a "Christian" nation but are distantly remote from the gospel message.