



2013.10.31

SHARING FROM 2013 BRAZIL STM TEAM

[Kasindy Chang] I remembered how scared I was before the trip, my first STM trip. I have always been inspired by those who had witnessed the Lord's grace and power on their trips. However, my enthusiasm was immediately dampened by fear and apprehension after only the first training. After our coordinator gave us a brief overview, it dawned on me then that I am totally inadequate and unprepared for what is to come. My anxiety escalated with each session. More than once I wanted to withdraw from the trip but was too ashamed to quit before I started. After a session in June, I was feeling particularly anxious and had a sleepless night but I felt the Lord tugging at me to go.

Our first destination was Sao Paulo, a bustling city. There are many Chinese churches. We visited five. The highlight of the first week was the youth camp. The younger age of the campers really took us by surprise. Most were 10 to 14 years



old, with a handful of late teens. We had to revise our programs. They primarily speak Chinese, many in Brazil for less than two years. That week had also greatly improved

our Chinese. We delivered God's words through testimonies, workshops, songs and sermons. I pray that the seeds of the truth will take hold in their hearts and bloom.

The second week we flew to Belo Horizonte, a more suburban city. One host family housed our entire team. They were very welcoming and generous. May God bless the family for their hospitality. The church we visited is made up mostly of people from China, with some second generation youth who speaks only Portuguese. We gave testimonies, workshops and services in Chinese and English and they translated into Portuguese. The core group is made up of only a few people and their pastor does not speak Chinese. Their spiritual needs are great and many. I can only hope that our short visit gave them some encouragement and generate more enthusiasm for them to continue faithfully in God's work.

This trip has definitely opened my eyes. Not only should I be more thankful for the tremendous resources that are so accessible here, also the many blessings that the Lord has bestowed on us in North America. The trip has reminded me to fervently remember those that are in need of spiritual guidance and teaching in other countries. I thanked the Lord for giving me the opportunity to join this trip. He has let me see firsthand how to work as a team, how to be flexible in an unexpected situation and how to count the many blessings that He has given me. There is no better way to learn and appreciate what mission is than to experience it yourself.

[Eunice Wong] Praise the Lord that since 2007 He once again moved me to Brazil and do His work. Filled with a thanksgiving heart, I prepared my 2013 STM trip to Brazil.

Before departure, we held several training sessions with another church and each time, we were filled with a fiery heart. But because several members were not able to join us, I was concerned we could have a less than desired partnership. I was also weary of any poor communication with local coworkers as well. But thanks be to God for His provision that allowed us to partner with each other beyond my worries for His glory's sake.

Our young members are very smart, lively, flexible, and very adaptable compared to the other ABCs (American-born Chinese) I've encountered. They put the Lord first and adjusted very well to us *old folks*. Seeing them use their not-so-fluent Chinese and tried their best to share the Gospel to the youth as well as actively communicated, played, and lived with them deeply touched me.

As for us adults, we were very adaptable as well-- whether it was the food or living environment. I really enjoyed my time with the sisters, especially when the five of us shared a room. It was a rare moment when we were able to share at night lying across the two huge beds, encouraging and comforting each other. God gifted us differently, allowing us to exhort and learn from each other in Him. This allowed me to understand the beautiful picture of living in unity as described in Psalm 133, "*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head,.... It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.*"

I never thought of us as not having any plans. Granted we did arrange meetings without advanced planning. Before we left, we did plan for visitation, workshops, gatherings. However once we landed, everything had to be rearranged. We have to design our gatherings depend on who showed up. I really gave it to our team leader Pastor Balax Sit, who was able to arrange our testimonies according to our abilities. Then depends on the needs at the time, he would deliver his



sermon accordingly. Whether the locals asked for training in hymn singing,

discipleship training, or living a Christ-like life, he would arrange accordingly. This allowed them to feel a sense of revival once more. It also allowed us to have a beautiful experience in walking with the Lord. My heart is now after God's own heart, and what a fulfilling life it is to glorify Him.

In comparison to the Chinese living in Silicon Valley, those living in Brazil has a really hard life. Not only do they have to work hard, they also have to think of their children's



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wellbeing. The parents do their best with the hope of providing an education and a different future. However, because of the long working hours, a big generation gap was created. The children's loneliness made it difficult for them to receive any encouragement and therefore not being able to concentrate on their schoolwork. So ironically, they have no way to better their future.

After I returned to the U.S., I truly felt how blessed I am. Besides thanking God for allowing me to live such a comfortable live, I am willing to obey God's call to continue doing His work through STMs.

[Li Liu] Having experienced last year's STM to China, I had been hoping to join another team this summer. Therefore, when a sister asked me if I want to go to Brazil, you can imagine my excitement and thanksgiving. Even though this time we partnered with another church, I was not worry at all, knowing God's grace is sufficient for us.

However, as we were intensely preparing for the trip, a member's son suddenly came down with a serious illness. Early July, I knew the son would not be able to go with us. Until right before we left, the father decided not to go as his son's condition was still unstable. Originally I was only going as a participant. I never thought I would be the only senior on our team. The rest was college and high school kids, even though many had gone on missions several times. At the time I was really nervous. Intellectually I knew the parents should stay with their ailing son. But facing those two weeks, I deeply regretted that I did not prepare enough. I was very afraid that if I messed up I would diminish God's glory. The only thing I could do was pray for His leading and strength. I asked that the Lord would prepare all participating youth with a peaceful heart and that each will take up their responsibilities. Our team members from the other church also helped me in many aspects. But I was still feeling anxious, asking God often to watch out for us and allow us to be able to glorify Him and build up others, revealing His love and might so that He may receive all the glory.



God's grace far exceeded what I could hope for or imagine. During the first week of the youth camp, our STM team partnered seamlessly. Whether it be during worship, message, testimony, skit, or special workshops, as well as games, they were welcomed by the youth, allowing close to fifty youth to have much to gain. Thursday night the skit the youth put on, "Everything", shocked many, who saw it and raised their hands to accept Christ. That night's bonfire was also the biggest I've ever seen, warming everyone's hearts.

But the most thankful and surprising was that the young man and his parents were able to participate in the VBS and youth camp the following week.

There are many Chinese in Brazil but more are in need of our Lord. Sao Paulo fared better but for a small town that is very far from big cities has only one Chinese church with no pastors. In addition, the civil order is very bad. News about robberies are common. Praise the Lord we did not experience any scary incidents. God took our burdens and protected our coming and going. Let us always remember the beautiful Brazil in our prayers. May God's will be done there soon!

### ☆ PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Ask that the Lord will remember Rev. Douglas Wu's serving, multiply strength in him physically and spiritually, and continue to grant power and wisdom.
2. Continue to pray that the Lord will protect and guide everything for Alex Ko and his family in Taiwan.
3. Pray for sister Chrisna as she leads and teaches the English class at the Pretoria Fu Qing Church.
4. Rustenburg Chinese Church has been established. Please pray that the five co-workers' spiritual lives will be renewed and be a good testimony to the local believers.
5. Ask that the Lord of harvest to send workers to reap the harvest in the fields of South Africa and Brazil.
6. Brothers and sisters of the Brazil churches are so busy in making a living that they neglect to seek spiritual growth or to serve in ministries. Ask the Lord to set them on fire for a willingness to seek spiritual, not worldly, things.
7. Pray to the Lord to grant abundant providence to CIM's financial needs in the coming year.
8. Ask the Lord to add coworkers to serve jointly at CIM.
9. Pray for Mrs. Pi's eyes and that she will have good health.

### ☆ FINANCIAL REPORT September 2013

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$635	\$3,895	-\$3,260
Missions	\$1,998	\$2,693	-\$695
Total	\$2,633	\$6,588	-\$3,955

If you have a burden for the CIM ministries, you may send in a check payable to CIM and mail it to P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA. Thank you!

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