



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

10.01.2018

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Notes from 2018 Brazil STM

Grace Lin

I was exhausted when I returned home after three weeks of STM at Brazil. It took nearly 24 hours of transit with all the transfers! Yet I was full of joy and thanksgiving for the opportunity to get out of my comfort zone, and to experience firsthand God's grace and His faithfulness. I was also thankful for the prayer warriors' intercessions, the financial support and love from brothers and sisters, and especially the support from my husband and daughters. I couldn't have gone without their support, so everyone participated in this ministry!

Last year CIM Executive Director Christine Pi shared with us the fact that in Brazil many Chinese send their kids to China to be raised by relatives, then take them back when they are teenagers. The teenagers would help with family chores, but some do not continue their education. As it's hard for the teenagers to adjust to a new environment, many family problems arise. A boy once told her that he had planned to misbehave in school so he could be sent back to China! I felt bad for those teenagers because I have two teenage daughters myself, so a thought to join the Brazil

STM was planted in my heart. This year Mrs. Pi again called us to join the Brazil STM, which reminded me of my earlier thought. I finally submitted the application after sincerely praying about it!

We had nine training sessions before our departure. We met for 3-4 hours each weekend and studied the STM manual, processed all paperwork, learned about the needs in Brazil and about each other, and prepared our testimonies. I realized it was a comprehensive program with strict and disciplined operation. I was both nervous and excited!

You'd never have a second chance to make a first impression! Salvador gave me my first impression of Brazil – warm and moist breezes, big banyan trees, many red kapok flowers and yellow sunflowers with other tropical plants, which made me felt as if I've returned to the Guangzhou I left 25 years ago.

It was great when we met the people we've been praying for. I especially remember our visit with Brother Lin. We enjoyed the wonderful Chinese dishes his wife prepared and listened to his testimony on how he went from Fujian to Brazil; how he

accepted Jesus despite his mother and grandmother were spiritual mediums; how he went from a ship's first mate to a businessman...etc. At the end he proclaimed that since God had led him to Brazil, God must have a wonderful plan!

At Recife, another Brother Lin had gone to Brazil by himself first to set up his business. Later his wife followed and they worked hard together to raise a family. Now both their business and family have grown, and so has their service in the church. Although they've been through many difficulties but they seldom complain. They have a positive attitude with the motto "Thankful for the LORD's protection!"

Sister Zheng is slim and petite but has a warm personality. She loves the LORD and has been praying for her family. She has overcome her shyness and witnessed in front of the Sunday congregation, which I found deeply moving!

It was a nice respite when we flew from hot and humid Recife to Belo Horizonte with comfortable weather. There was a 3-day retreat with a wonderful spiritual feast! There were special topics and discussion,

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thanks to the LORD for safe return of the two Brazil STM teams in September. They've sown the seeds of gospel in four cities, and we ask God to encourage the local believers for follow-up works and to help them to grow in the LORD.
2. The Belo Horizonte church will move out of their current location by end of the year. May the LORD guide and open a path for them. They're now negotiating with a nearby Brazilian Baptist church.
3. The Youth Fellowship of the Belo Horizonte church has been officially set up and is being led by Brother Chen and his wife. May the LORD bestow wisdom and keep the youths, so they have perseverance and treasure the opportunity to learn God's word.
4. Elder Chris Chen will serve and teach for two weeks in October at the Salvador church. May the LORD bless the brothers and sisters there and for them to make good use of this learning opportunity.
5. Pray for the continual growth of the Recife church's Bible study fellowship under the mentorship of Elder Chris Chen. May the LORD's great power bless, lead, and support them in their growth toward maturity.
6. Pray for the youth retreat at Sao Paulo next March and for the LORD to send appropriate STM team members, as well as for all the preparation works, so the youths could receive salvation and eternal blessing.
7. Pray for the start of training for the joint South Africa churches family retreat at end of December, the STM team will serve in Pretoria and Cape Town churches.
8. Pray for the west African nations of Ghana and Togo so the gospel may be brought to the people through the STM teams.
9. Pray for the Roma people of Ukraine. May God have compassion for them and for more believers to care about their needs.
10. Pray for the CIM annual board meeting on October 22, and for the planning discussions for next year's projects to be in God's will and to have God's blessing.

personal testimonies, hymnal appreciation, personal fitness, and a surprise birthday party, all in a rustic ranch.

It was most moving that we witnessed the creation of the Youth Fellowship at

the retreat. I thank the LORD for the opportunity to share the gospel with few youths, and I led a young woman in prayer to accept the LORD! The Holy Spirit moved everyone's hearts, and the youths said they'd

seriously study the Bible and attend the fellowship! We sang the hymn with joy and thanksgiving, prayed and blessed the Belo Horizonte Youth Fellowship!

To be continued....

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July 2018

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$5,142	\$4,254	\$888
Missions	\$16,830	\$8,316	\$8,514
Total	\$21,972	\$12,570	\$9,402



If you would like to contribute to CIM ministries online via credit card, please go to our web: www.cimusa.org
Please make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA Thank you!

CHINESE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS, INC.