



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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Salvador—the First Capital of Brazil

Salvador is a very ancient city. Situated in the northeastern part of Brazil, it is known as the “Bay of All Saints Holy Savior”. It is the oldest capital of the country, from 1549 to 1763. After having been claimed and occupied by the Portuguese. Brazil's first Catholic Church and the Great Cathedral were also built here. Being the first capital, 350 Catholic churches towered over the hill. It is the third largest city in Brazil. The population is around 2.9 million.

Because of the settlers brought in by the Portuguese fleet to build the city, very quickly it became the main harbor of Brazil. Salvador is a center for slavery in all South and North America. The African culture has a very deep influence in the local music, cuisine, and other customs.

Half of the population there are of African decent. This is also the original birthplace of Brazil's famous carnival, with an entire week of crazy celebration, even longer than that of its second capital, Rio de Janeiro.

The Chinese diasporas in Salvador can be divided into four major groups: 1)

Chinese immigrated to Brazil in the nineteen-seventies. They came from the ancestral homes of Enping, Guangdong. These are the second and third generations of immigrants and basically speak fluent Portuguese as well as the Enping dialect, and can understand some Cantonese. 2) Chinese immigrated to Brazil from Taiwan in the nineteen-

eighties and nineties. They speak Taiwanese and Mandarin, but the levels of fluency in Portuguese vary with age and level of education. They also live a relatively stable life. 3) Chinese who moved to Brazil in the last twenty to thirty years from Taishan and Kaiping, Guangdong.

They mainly speak Taishan, with more than half can speak Cantonese. The younger ones can also communicate in Mandarin. Most of them operate their own mom-and-pop restaurants, luncheonette and snack bars, with very long working hours. 4) Chinese who moved to Brazil from Fujian, Wenzhou, and Qingtian in the last ten years.

Most of them operate bazaar, dollar stores, small gift shops and other small businesses to earn a living. The Chinese Church in Salvador was founded by this last group of Chinese diasporas. It began in 2014 with one believer inviting four other



families to have Bible studies at his house. In July, CIM short-term mission team was invited to join a medical team from Sao Paulo to Salvador to conduct an evangelistic meeting. It was the first time a worship was held on a Sunday and a church was established, giving all the glory to the Lord. And in the afternoon after the worship, the whole congregation went to the bay to witness the baptism of the three believers as His amazing work. Afterwards, four pastors from Sao Paulo were taking turn to equip the believers in Salvador once a month. CIM also continues to send STM team each year to support the training of coworkers and help expand the Gospel work.

Although Salvador is not as big as Sao Paulo or Rio de



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray that Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Wu will have abundant strength physically and spiritually.
2. Pray that Rev. Wu's application for the United States visa will go smoothly and timely. The in-person appointment has been set up at 10am on June 21 in Johannesburg.
3. Intercede for the university application of Clarence, Rev. Wu's son.
4. Alex and Nicole Ko will finish their seminary training on June 17. They will be reaching out to churches in Taiwan for support until July. Please ask God to open paths and doors for them as they plan to begin serving in South Africa in October.
5. Pray for God to inspire the believers of the various churches in South Africa to cultivate their daily habit of studying the Bible and growth in His Word.
6. Continue to pray for political and law and order in South Africa.
7. 2017 Brazil STM will serve in churches in Salvador and Recife from June 28 to July 12; and churches in Brasilia and Belo Horizonte from July 12 to 27.
8. Ask God to prepare the brothers and sisters who will take part in the trip so that the believers there can be refined and be built up. Pray also that the brothers and sisters on the STM teams will have the Holy Spirit's leading and peace and joy during this time of training.
8. Ask God to keep the believers of the Salvador church strong and rooted in the Word of God.
9. Pray for the church in Belo Horizonte coworkers group. Ask God to add to their strength, learn to support each other in ministry, and serve God with much confidence.
10. Pray for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the believers at the Belo Horizonte church. Because of the weak economy and the declining civil safety, many of them have lost interest and desire to attend the gatherings.
11. Pray for the BH church their registration with the government.
12. The church in Porto Alegre has started holding monthly gatherings specifically for those who work in the city center and have never participated in any church activities. Please earnestly pray for them that they will soon accept the Gospel.
13. Pray for more brothers and sisters at the church in Porto Alegre to be raised up to learn how to serve God.
14. Pray for the church in Brasilia to equip their new coworkers with the correct attitude of serving. Pray for the believers to be willing to learn to share the Gospel.
15. Pray for Rev. Isaac Quan of CIM Canada. Ask God to add to him strength to share cross-culturally through short-term missions in the local people of West Africa.
16. Please pray for the various ministries in Ghana and Togo of West Africa. Ask the Lord to raise up more believers to join in STM trips and support the ministry.
17. CIM will be preparing for our 25th Thanksgiving gathering. Please ask that the Lord will prepare and bless us to smoothly arrange everything according to His will.
18. Pray for members of the 25th anniversary publication committee that they are able to finish in a timely manner.
19. Ask God to bless coworkers on the home front with wisdom; that they will offer their best to accomplish what God has bestowed upon us.
20. Ask God to provide abundantly in all areas of CIM's ministry.

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Janeiro, it has a safer living environment than those two cities. The Chinese here work six days a week, ten hours a day, so life is still very difficult.

There is only one Chinese church in Salvador, the Salvador Chinese Christian Church. Even though they have the hearts

to share the Gospel with the other Chinese, the busy lifestyle is a great difficulty. Language has become a big obstacle as well. The believers at the Church can speak Fujianese, and mandarin and so they can only greet those who speak different dialects but they cannot carry on a deeper

communication. When the local workers took us to the Chinese-owned stores to visit, as outsiders, we often find it easier to chat with them and talk about their needs.

Salvador is a difficult and barren Gospel ground, but we also see and hear the same Macedonian call. Who is willing to respond to this call?

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2017

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$1,082	\$4,065	-\$2,983
Missions	\$4,462	\$3,719	\$743
Total	\$5,544	\$7,784	-\$2,240

If you have a burden for the CIM ministries, please go to our web: www.cimusa.org or send in a check payable to: CIM, and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170- 0185, USA. Thank you!



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