

Reflection of 2013 Brazil Mission Trip

Esther Kuo 7/28/13

Dates: 7/11 - 7/18/2013

Locations: Happy Kids & 萬國教會, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Participants: Stanley Kuo, Esther Kuo, Victor Kuo, Timothy Kuo, Joseph Kuo, Li Liu, Brandon Chen, Lisa Yao, Allis Yao, Joshua Chen and Jason Liang

I am truly grateful for the privilege and opportunity given by CIM and Mrs. Pi to go to Sao Paulo, Brazil for a mission trip this summer. I have learned so many lessons through this trip and they are listed below as my personal reflection:

Things I am thankful for:

- **Touching testimonies:** The life stories of the team members were very much encouraging and inspiring to me! I am very grateful for their vulnerability of willing to share their pain and struggle in their life journeys!
- **Harmony:** Even though the spiritual warfare was real, physical strength was drained and concerns about Timothy's health were constant in my heart, we worked SO well together as a team! The five college students and three high schoolers were obedient, proactive, productive and pleasant all the time! I am extremely thankful for this outstanding team!
- **Well connection with the local churches:** Many thanks go to Mrs. Pi and local church leaders for their diligence in arranging the opportunities for us to visit and serve there. It was a great feeling to be connected with God's family in a foreign country :)
- **Warm hospitality:** Both the teachers from Happy Kids/Teens and pastor/co-workers from 萬國教會 extended their warmest welcome to all of us! Often I felt we did not deserve it, yet the kindness just came on pouring in!

Things we can do better next time:

- **Smaller groups:** Due to the big size of 20 team members altogether, I often felt it was difficult to feel the close team spirit that I long for. As the reality is that it is almost impossible to reach the closeness for a large group, it may be better to have two smaller groups next time for 20 people. We may be trained together, yet without the needs of coordination as a big group.
- **More efficient training:** The training sessions can be conducted in a much more

efficient way! As the training materials are essential and helpful, it is definitely important to go through every single page. However, many of them can be read at home and discussed in the meetings in a faster pace!

- **More encouraging tone:** During the he trainings, in general, the atmosphere was lack of excitement and enthusiasm. It would be wonderful if we can set the tone in a much more positive way :)

Again, thank you very much, CIM and Mrs. Pi, for this life-transforming opportunity....