



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

06.01.2022

Bello Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church STM Trip Sharing

~Rev Jorge Loo of Brazil

For more than two years, the impact of the COVID-19 virus has brought many different changes to the world. In addition to living habits, it changed the viewpoint on family, on marriage, on life, on work, and on values, etc. It also has an impact on the church. Due to the pandemic, the government has banned in-person Sunday worship. And in order not to interrupt the Sunday worship for believers, various churches have successively adapted to virtual conference apps, such as Zoom, to continue to maintain Sunday worship. Other church ministries, such as Sunday school classes, prayer meetings, etc., have adopted the same approach.

Now, two years later, since many people worldwide have been vaccinated, the number infected with COVID 19 and the death rate have dropped significantly. Therefore, countries have also relaxed measures to control the epidemic and requirements for the use of masks in public places, or PCR inspection requirements when entering other countries. The same is true for Brazil. Therefore, at the beginning of this year, I decided to visit brothers and sisters of Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church. During these last two years, we have only used Zoom once a week to study the Bible with a small group of people.

From March 18th to 21st, Rev Zheng Guo Qing and I drove to Belo to visit members of that church. It is nearly 700 kilometers away from Sao Paulo. We set off at 8:30am on the 18th, drove slowly and arrived at our destination at 6:00pm. We received a warm welcome that night, and had dinner with Sister Wang Gui Ying, Brother Wen Xing Ke, their two siblings, and other members at a brother's restaurant.

The next day, a Saturday, starting from 10am, Sister Wang and Brother Wen led the two of us to visit the congregation from house to house, and invited them to attend the Bible study meeting at Brother Wen's house on Saturday night, and the worship service Sunday afternoon.

At present, most of the shops owned by church members and Chinese diaspora are in two commercial centers in the city center, named Oiapoque and Xavante. They open different types of shops, including gifts shops, optical shops, hats shops, electrical appliances shops, lamps and hanging lamps shops, ready-to-wear shops and restaurants, etc. We can feel that although there are still concerns about the epidemic, they still welcome our visit.

After we visited more than 20 stores, Brother Yang Ming Zhang and his wife drove me to visit the brothers and sisters in the city center and had Chinese food at their home. Brother Xie Xin Jie also invited Brother Lin Zhen Zong, Sister Weng Chen Cai Yun, and Mrs. He Li Qing to meet together. I really appreciate the grace of the Lord that I can gather together with these old brothers and sisters who have not seen each other for many years, and have a meal and reminisce together. In fact, brother Xie and I came to Brazil 56 years ago on the same Dutch ship, the Dejibao.

After dinner at Brother Wen's house on Saturday night, there was a Bible study session with 12 people attending. We praised God and shared God's Word with the first chapter of John's Gospel. All was sweet. Thank the Lord!

Since most of the members' shops are open till 4:00 pm on Sundays, worship is arranged to start at 5:00 pm, and the venue is a rented meeting room at a hotel. More than 40 brothers and sisters attended that day. What an unexpected surprise! This is the church's first in-person worship service in two years. I thank the Lord so much. Everyone was very excited to praise the Lord, listen to the Lord's words, and enjoy the His presence and fellowship after the meeting.

After the meeting, several members took us to a nearby shopping restaurant for dinner, and we continued to chat happily. We had a wonderful and unforgettable Sunday. Thank the Lord! The next day, we set off back to Sao Paulo to complete our visit. Along the way, we were accompanied by Brother Wang Dedi, who drove for us.

We deeply felt the needs of the Belo Chinese Baptist Church, not only the Chinese ministry, but also the needs of the young people who mainly speak Portuguese. In general, the most important thing at the moment is to restore the regular in-person worship of the church first, with a suitable meeting place at a suitable time. We must pray earnestly for this, and we must also remove any timid hearts of the brothers and sisters, and joyfully return to God's house again to worship God together.

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P.O.Box 700185

San Jose

CA 95170-0185 · USA

[TEL \(408\) 489-3508](tel:(408) 489-3508)

www.cimusa.org



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. The lockdown of South Africa has ended, and Rev Wu's church is moving towards the full recovery of in-person worship gatherings. They are still taking into account the online Bible study gatherings. Pray for the Lord to increase their strength, and rely on Jesus to run straight toward the Gospel goal. The grace of the Lord alone is enough. Please intercede for them.
2. Thank God for sending Dr Zhang from Shipai Xinyou Church in Taipei to take care of Whitney's physical examination, and instruct her to pay attention to her healthy diet and a re-examination after three months. May the Lord grant her peace. Pray for Whitney's health and ask God to heal her and keep her healthy and safe, and keep her next examination normal.
3. Rev Wu encountered an oil pipe leak when he was driving in May, and a road pothole caused damage to the shock absorber. Please pray for their travel safety.
4. Thank the Lord for leading Alex and Nicole Ko to serve very smoothly during the Easter period. Brothers and sisters all worked together and they saw that the Lord used His grace to attract the congregation and gospel friends to come to Him together. On Easter Sunday, God brought several new gospel friends into the church. Please ask that the Lord will continue to lead them to attend meetings, to know Jesus, and to work in their hearts.
5. Please pray for Rev Jorge and Mrs. Loo for their STM trip to Bolivia May 27 to June 6.
6. From June 15th to 20th, Rev Loo and his wife and Preacher Ye Dan will lead a STM team to Belen Chinese Christian Church to celebrate the church's first anniversary and have a medical ministry. Please pray for this trip.
7. Continue to pray for peace in Ukraine. Pray for the protection for the House of Mercy staff as they care for refugees who are leaving Ukraine. Pray for safety of the volunteers who deliver aid to the hot spots in other parts of the country.
8. Pray for guidance as to when is the best time to send STM teams overseas again.
9. Pray for the CIM families who have lost loved ones recently.
10. **Pray for the recruiting effort underway to fill job vacancies in CIM for a Director of Ministry to oversee STM and daily operations**, and an Executive Director successor. If you know of anyone who is interested and qualifies, please contact us.
11. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the ministry so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

NOTE

Please call 408-596-4567 to contact CIM for questions or comments. Thank you for your continual support.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2022

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$21,490	\$6,205	\$15,285
Missions	\$39,244	\$43,096	-\$3,852
Total	\$60,734	\$49,301	\$11,433

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 TEL : 408 -596-4567 www.cimusa.org
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