

Belo Horizonte Baptist Church Mission Trip Report September 6-11, 2023

~Reg Jorge Loo

Arriving in Belo Horizonte at 6:30pm on Sept 6th, I visited Sister Claudia Ong's house that night and enjoyed the city's unique pizza together. After dinner, I discussed with Claudia about the ministry of young people in the church. She felt that there were still many difficulties, such as talking about their attendance rate, enthusiasm for participating in ministries, etc. Despite this, Claudia still feels that they have made progress, and they often ask some quite in-depth questions about faith issues during gatherings. In short, for Claudia, although She feels it is very hard, and she is also very busy with her own work, but she is willing to continue to accept this challenging ministry. Just asking for more prayers for her.

We did not stay in a hotel on this trip. Because it was Brazil's Independence Day (Sept 7) and we were on consecutive holidays, hotel prices had increased and it was difficult to find. It happened that my friend Pastor Marcio dos Santos is the Director-General of the Minas State Baptist Association, he arranged for us to live in a house specially prepared by the association to receive Christians from other places. This house has eight rooms, including two suites, where we live in one of the suites. And this location is not far from the center. Thank God!

Sept 7th is the anniversary of Brazil's 201st anniversary of independence. It is a holiday. It also happens to be the day that I celebrate 57 years of immigrating to Brazil, because it was on September 7th, 1966 that I arrived in Rio de Janeiro City and officially set foot in the country of Brazil. I met the Lord in Brazil, and I also raised a family here, so I am filled with infinite gratitude. On this day, Pastor Marcio invited us to go to the farm of the training center of the Minas State Baptist Association. Pastor Marcio said that due to COVID 19, the training center has been closed in the past two years. Now that the pendemic is no longer that much of a threat, the farm is open today for the first time in two years to more than 400 people for vacation. There were several cows, sheep, pigs, chickens and fish, and some vegetables were grown to be used in the farm kitchen. We spent the day very relaxed and happy.

In the morning of September 8th and 9th, we visited Chinese shops in the mall. In the afternoon, we held a free clinic in Xavante Mall. Some of the people who came to see the doctor were Christian families but have not been attending church. I Invited them to attend Sunday worship. These stores are very busy. Although our free clinic is so close to them, they will only come to see a doctor when there is a need. A total of 14 patients came on the first day, and 9 patients came on the second day.

On the evening of September 9th, we had a gathering at the home of a seeker, Mr. Ji Junqun. Nearly 30 people came, some of whom were newcomers, such as Chen Jinxiong from Putian and Hong Chaochao from Qingtian. The activities that night started with Claudia leading an ice-breaker game to let everyone get to know each other first, and then Ah Shui and My wife lead praises. Then, I gave a short speech about Eastern and Western philosophical thoughts and compare them with the way of God mentioned in the Bible. The most important message of the short speech is to emphasize the incarnation of the Lord Jesus and the fact that this Word is God.. In other words, this Jesus is the true God, a God worthy of our following. After that, we began to enjoy a scrumptous dinner. We all talked and laughed to their heart's content. During the meal, My wife and I did acupuncture treatments for many people, and I also performed several osteopathic treatments. The atmosphere was so good and everyone was so

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happy! We all returned home happy that night. Thank the Lord!

On Sunday, September 10, there were more than 20 people in the afternoon Sunday worship. Ah Shui was the chair, Sister Wang Guiying led the praise songs, and Ester played the piano. I preached on the topic: "The importance of Building Teamwork". After Sunday worship, there was a time for the body-in-Christ to fellowship and enjoy dinner. After dinner, I summoned the co-workers, gave them words of encouragement, and encouraged them to continue participating in the weekly discipleship training equipping course using Zoom. Thank the Lord that everyone has already slowly restoring the mentality of physical worship on Sunday. Our prayer is that more members can come back to participate in Sunday worship as soon as possible.

On September 11th, my wide and I set off back to São Paulo.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1. Thank the Lord for leading more than fifty evangelical friends to participate in the Gospel Sunday at PECCC. There were also new people coming to the church. Please pray that the Lord will continue to help Pastor Alex Ko to follow up with them and other evangelical friends.
- 2. Pastor Alex is inviting friends to take one-to-one faith courses. Ask the Lord to prepare the hearts of the invited friends and lead them to believe in the Lord.
- 3. Pastor Alex will start taking baptism classes with two sisters in October. Please ask the Lord to prepare and strengthen their hearts.
- 4. Please pray for Pastor Lin Yingcong who will be serving at Belo Horizonte Baptist Church from November 1st to 6th.
- 5. Please pray for Sister Isabel Ong's gallstone surgery. She is Claudia's sister.
- 6. Also pray for the Chinese missionaries needed by the Belo Horizonte Baptist Church.
- 7. Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine. The invasion rages on and innocent lives are lost each day. Pray for House of Mercy as they take care of refugees, physically and spiritually. Praise God that Pastor Vasya and Pastor Vlad are now safely back in Ukraine after the "Mercy in the Midst of Turmoil" tour to Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, and Vancouver.
- 8. Pray for the pastors and teachers that we support in Ghana and Togo. Inflation is still greatly affecting their lives. Pray that there will be donors for our benevolent fund so we can help withs one of their physical needs. Pray for the formation of STM teams I 2024. Continue to pray for Pastor Enoch and his family. Praise God for Pastor Matthieu has safely returned to Canada after his trip to Togo.
- 9. Please continue to 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.
- 10. 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

Sept 2023

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$68,986	\$12,097	\$56,889
Missions	\$82,654	\$85,223	-\$2,569
Total	<u>\$151,640</u>	\$97,320	<u>\$54,320</u>

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