



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

11.01.2024

Reflection on short-term missionary work in Brazil

~Brother Zhan

Everyone who belongs to the Lord knows very well the Great Commission God has given us: to spread the gospel throughout the world. But various things in life, whether it's work, family, responsibilities, or our own thoughts, can get in the way of fulfilling this Great Mission. In March this year, we recruited teammates for the short-term mission (STM) in Brazil in our church. It's not so much that I have any particular reason to go. But rather, I had no reason not to participate in this STM. No matter my time or various responsibilities, they are no longer obstacles to me. Instead of waiting around, thinking that someone else will go, my thought at that time was that if it wasn't me, then who could it be? Do I have some selfish motives of my own? Yes, I do. I wanted to get out of our church and see where God is leading. I also take this opportunity to exercise my spiritual muscles. Looking back now, I think this is also a problem for many brothers and sisters. The need is so great, then why do we have to try so hard, and go to a place so far away, to Brazil, which is unfamiliar to us? It takes a lot of time, money and strength. What I want to say is: it is God who wants us to be sanctified. If we do the same thing as unbelievers, then what good does this belief do to us? Although it is very hard, both I and my teammates are a little acclimated. But it is truly an honor to sacrifice for Jesus.

When our teammates gathered together to prepare, I discovered that there are only seven signed up for this team. I felt a little disappointed. I really hoped that more brothers and sisters can join together to do the work of the Lord. That would be so wonderful. But God immediately told me that He had a good plan, and He would prepare it. So I just concentrated on doing the work I should do. The work in Brazil and the needs there were not so clear before we set off. I made the best preparations that I knew how to do. But I felt a little uneasy in my heart, but I also believed that God will lead us.

Our first stop was a camp on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, with coworkers there to serve the children. The environment these children live in is beyond my imagination because the surrounding I grew up in is completely different. But I think the problems we encounter in life are similar to the problems these children encounter. God's word is powerful. I was there leading the hymns and to give my personal testimony. I led the children to do spiritual exercises with the coworkers there and discussed after the message. I don't know how much these kids took in what I was doing there. But I deeply believe that God will work there. Just one sentence from the message I spread can help these children. Then everything I have laid up will be worth it. Another thing that inspires me is the co-workers there. They were so loving and patient in seeking the good of the children. After we left, a co-worker sent us a message. He thanked us for reminding him that our God is a God who is always working. It also reminded him that kingdom work is worth participating in. Then it suddenly dawned on me. In fact, it is really not anything I can do, but as long as I go, from America to Brazil, God wants to express His love through me. Here I also saw the ministry of the coworkers here. I got a lot of motivation. It reminded me how big the kingdom of God is. Everyone needs the Gospel.

Next, we headed to Balém and Recife. Also accompanying us were Rev Loo and his wife and Dr. Chen. They were willing to use their expertise and spent their own time and money to come to these two places for free clinics to care for them. I was also very inspired and moved. Where exactly do I place God's priorities in my life? This is worth thinking about every day. These 2 places are very similar. Less than one-tenth of the people are believers, and less than half of the believers attend regular meetings. So, our job there was to preach the Gospel and do visitation. They came from different places and live in different backgrounds. But I saw that their worship, their desire for God's words, the love between brothers and sisters, and the way they preached the gospel to the people around them were no different from ours. It really made me feel

CIM Board of Directors

Rev. Yoman Man
(Chicago)
Rev. Andrew Ho (L.A.)
Rev. Samuel Law
(Houston)
Peter Chang (Milpitas)
Theresa Poon
(Cupertino)
David Chiang (San Jose)
Christine Pi (Bay Area)
Grace Lin (Bay Area)

CIM Canada Executive Director

Rev. Isaac Quan

CIM Australia Board of Directors Chair

Rev. Sunny Tse

CIM Brazil Committee Chair

Rev. Jorge Loo
Committee Vice Chair
Minister Yeh Dan Liuson

CIM Staff

Executive Director

Administrative Assistant

Alice Wong (Part time)

Editor

Debbie Cheng (Part time)

[P.O.Box 700185](mailto:P.O.Box_700185)

[San Jose](mailto:San_Jose)

[CA 95170-0185 · USA](mailto:CA_95170-0185_USA)

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

www.cimusa.org

that we have only one God, even though we are in different places. We are in the same church and the same body. They don't have many resources there, so they need to use other churches to worship. And the busyness of life. They do not have small group meetings or Sunday School classes. This allowed me to see their needs. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Although STM's are good, but it would be better if there are long-term preachers to shepherd them. Here I see that our churches in North America are really rich in resources. Am I making full use of our resources? Do we truly love the church, brothers and sisters, and those around us who have not yet believed in the Lord?

I think the biggest impact this short trip had on me was that it made me examine myself again. It also reminded me to think more and reflect. I had this opportunity to go outside the church where I attend and go to Brazil. The brothers and sisters, coworkers, the church, and the people I met there made me realize that the kingdom of God is so big. The needs of the kingdom of God are also many. What can I do? First, the most basic thing is to equip myself. Because I don't know when a short mission trip like this can become a blessing to others. Second, live God's love in the lives around us, including my family, friends, brothers and sisters in church. The last thing is how to do what we should do within God's Great Commission. I think this STM is not the end. Instead, I started to walk the path that is in line with God's heart again.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please pray for the various gospel ministry plans of the PECCC at the end of this year, and ask the Lord to use these gospel ministries to bear witness to the Lord.
2. Thank the Lord for allowing Nicole to keep her parents company in China and taking her father to various medical consultations. Because the risk of surgery is too high, the family has decided to treat it conservatively with drugs first and then observe it. Please ask the Lord to keep him and treat him.
3. Pastor Alex plans to visit two cities (Ladybrand and Polokwane) to see if there are any opportunities for outreach. Please ask the Lord to arrange a suitable time to reveal His will and direction.
4. Pray for the conversion of the youth of the Belo Horizonte Chinese Church, Mr. Ji's three children, and the son of sister Lin.
5. Please pray that the arrangement of the church's Sunday sermons can put co-workers on rotation.
6. Pray that brothers and sisters will invite more people to attend the church's mid-week Bible studies and Saturday prayer meetings.
7. Pray for Janice, a CIM co-worker in Ghana, who continues her ministry after her maternity leave. Pray that she can find a balance between working at CIM and caring for her daughter Lucy. Pray about the process of her obtaining an indefinite residence permit.
8. Pray for the pastors and teachers that we support in Ghana. Inflation is still greatly affecting their lives. Pray for wisdom to know how to support pastors on how to empower church members to support their churches in these economically challenging times. Pray for peace as it is an election year. Pray for rain for the farmers who are greatly affected by climate change.
9. Pray for the finances of CIM Ministries. Pray for new donors and a healthy general fund to run our ministries. In order to run our ministries effectively, we are currently seeking monthly donors.
10. 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.
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

Sept 2024

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$46,404	\$10,802	\$35,602
Missions	\$56,398	\$47,447	\$8,951
Total	<u>\$102,802</u>	<u>\$58,249</u>	<u>\$44,553</u>

To contribute to CIM ministries:

- 1) Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



P. O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185 · USA

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

E-mail : cimusa1992@gmail.com