

Brazil Report  
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**Sao Paulo**

The first night in Brazil, we attended the Happy Teen Friday fellowship, which Kueiting led. There were a good number of teens there. First we sang a couple songs in Mandarin. Next, we played an icebreaker game. The kids got pretty interested in the game and had fun. Then, Kueiting gave a talk about dating. She realized midway through the night that the talk that she had initially planned didn't exactly fit with their ages. So she adapted and made the appropriate changes. She also did a very good job of involving the teens in the discussion, making them answer questions and share. And finally, other members of the team shared their own dating experiences. At the end of the night, everybody ate pizza and talked amongst ourselves.

After the weekend in Mogi, we began our four days of Happy Kids. We took over the activities so that we could give the teachers a nice break. While we led the kids, the teachers attended workshops with Kueiting. We had two sessions of Happy Kids. The morning session with the younger group and the afternoon session with the older group. Ester/To led worship, Ricky/Gallant did skits with the puppet dog, Elim taught bible stories, and Lily/Christine/Judy led crafts. Afterwards, the kids would play games. I was quite amazed at how well-behaved and enthusiastic they all were. Crafts and games were a bit chaotic because there were so many kids and not enough of us helpers. But in summary, the children really did seem to enjoy everything.

In addition to Happy Kids, we also led Happy Teens in the afternoon. There were around 15 teenagers there. This is where I was more involved. Wang and I were in charge of helping them learn/practice English. I had prepared four bible stories that I had made into skits. But I had no idea what their English levels were. It turns out there was a variety of skill levels; several very proficient in English and some that could barely even read English. Since it took a long time teaching them one skit, it was decided we would only teach two skits and have them perform them at their graduation. So the first day, we taught them the skits (Zacchaeus the tax collector and the Parable of the Good Samaritan), the second day we split the group in two and had them practice their lines, and the fourth day, they performed the skits. I was very impressed by how well they did. They got pretty into the skits and were able to memorize their lines. In addition to English, we wanted to share the gospel with them. None of the teenagers were Christian and most have not heard much about gospel. Each day, we had one member of the team give their testimonies (Ester, To, & Gallant). The teens politely listened but I'm not too sure how much they took in. On the last day, Ricky shared the gospel basics by telling the meanings of the gold/black/red/white/green colors. The teens seemed more interested and asked questions. At the end Ricky gave a prayer and invited them to accept Jesus. One person raised their hand.

On the third day, the whole school took a field trip to the zoo. We didn't have much to do here since the zoo workers were in charge. The workers taught the kids about recycling, let them play with animals, and other activities. The kids had a lot of fun.

There was a graduation ceremony on the last day. The school performed a song for us, we sang a song for them, the Happy Teens performed their skits, and we gave the kids their graduation certificates. At the end, the principal thanks all of us and gave us wonderful gifts in thanks. I was really touched by their generosity and how thankful they were for us coming.

During our stay in Brazil, we stayed at a hotel owned by a member of the local church. We were very blessed by this woman. She felt led by God to not let us pay for our rooms AND also to give a generous monetary donation to our trip. She felt as if this action was a calling from God and that she wanted no recognition for it.

## **Mogi**

While in Sao Paulo, we visited Mogi on the weekend. On Saturday, they gave us a tour of the church facility. And then we separated into groups and went on visitations. The majority of Chinese immigrants owned little shops, selling food or clothes. Each group was given a route. At every Chinese store we passed, we said hello to the shop owners. We introduced ourselves, gave them booklets to read, and invited them to attend a church event on Sunday. We talked to them for as long as we could but oftentimes, they were very busy and couldn't talk to us for long. Still I was very amazed how willing they were to talk to us. My impression would be that they wouldn't want to talk to Christians. But they seemed eager to converse with us, especially in Cantonese. I was amazed at how hard they work and how long they work each day. After all the visitations, everybody was very tired from walking.

We came back Sunday night for the church event with the shop owners. We got a really good turnout. It seems as if a lot of people came to enjoy their rare night off and socialize with their friends. I actually didn't participate in the actual event since I was with the kids. There were a lot of children. It was really hard to control all of them. There were a good number of kids who didn't want to stay in the room and instead were running around outside. We ended up making balloons for most of the night. We were very fortunate to have the help of two local teenagers who were really helpful in speaking Portuguese. I was able to get to know one of these girls quite well. We went on the visitations together and talked quite a bit with each other.

## **Rio de Janeiro**

We went sightseeing on Saturday. We went to go see Jesus the Redeemer Statue as well as the beach. The view from up there was amazing; it the statue overlooks the whole city, watching. Even from the city, you can look up and see the statue.

Saturday night, we held a church service. Wang led the worship, Ricky gave a sermon, and Judy gave her testimony. There were a few difficulties with the worship/equipment. The songs that were chosen for worship were completely foreign to the church-goers. As such, there wasn't a great response to the songs.

On Sunday morning, we led another church service. Ester, To, Gallant, and Judy led worship, Ricky preached, and Lily gave her testimony. This time, the worship team chose songs that were more familiar to the church and thus more people participated in singing. For this church service, the pastor's son translated the whole thing in Portuguese for some non-Chinese speaking members. While the adults were in the main hall, Elim and Christine held Sunday School for the children. After church in the morning, Wang led a bible study.

## **Curitiba**

Arriving in Curitiba, we weren't too sure about what we had to do. We arrived at the church and were introduced to the pastor. It turns out there a number of deacons of the church, but no Chinese pastor. As such they invited a Portuguese pastor to step in. This pastor didn't speak Chinese, so they needed a translator for everything.

While in Curitiba, To got sicker and sicker. Everyone was really worried about it. One day, we arranged to take him to the hospital. Once there, the doctors gave him medicine. To got better, but the medicine made him very tired.

In the mornings and evenings, a church member took us on visitations. Similarly to Mogi, we walked around to all the Chinese shops and chatted to the workers. We gave them reading material and invited the children to VBS. In Curitiba, the workers were a lot more open to us.

Perhaps it was just that certain time we went, but they were less busy and more willing to talk to us longer. We ended up talking to each person for a while. We were even able to ask for prayer requests and pray for them. One of the families mentioned that the biggest need they had was learning Portuguese. This is one way that the church can try to reach out to the community. In addition, we visited one family in their home. Wang spoke to them in Cantonese and shared his testimony. I talked with their daughter who was around my age. Before left, we prayed for them. We also visited the shops of some of the church members. We went to their stores and prayed for them as well.

The church had also organized a VBS for the children of the community. Many were non-believers and the children of shop owners. The majority spoke only Portuguese and only a few spoke Cantonese. The VBS was quite exceptional. The Portuguese pastor was very good with the kids. Young people of the church also helped out. They sang energetic, happy songs where everybody dances around. They acted out bible stories with elaborate costumes and sets. And the crafts were very creative. When compared to Sao Paulo, this VBS was a lot more controlled. There were fewer kids and more helpers. We helped out, and added little things to the VBS. We led some things in Cantonese, we made more balloon animals, and did some gospel sharing. But it was a good thing that the church took charge of the VBS because they were able to speak Portuguese. Whenever we tried to help, someone would have to translate for us.