

Lily Li

During this STM to Brazil, we went to four cities, visited three churches, one Chinese school and a vast land for the gospel and the unreached people. The Presbyterian Church in Mogi das Cruzes was so blessed to have a large gathering ground. In addition to their own congregants, they also let other gospel organization to use part of their premises. Pastor and Mrs. Lee of Go International have a burden for the local Chinese immigrants and are willing to host mission teams to come every month. They understand that these teams can help with the spiritual growth of the local believers and the partnership with the local ministries to carry out God's will. That day we divided into three teams to various areas of town to distribute gospel tracts and invitation cards to that night's evangelistic meeting. Many people came, including adults and children. As a younger sister said, "I have never seen that many people come. There's even a long line to get dinner!" Praise the Lord! Even though we were busy, we were busy with joy.

The four days of serving at Happy Kids and Happy Teens center were very busy. However, compared to their teachers, we still had it easy. The teachers are all Christians. Even though they do not earn very much, they express their love very much. The children under their care were all polite and could read and write Chinese. Hopefully these children will grow up to be believers as well. Kuei-ting had a beautiful sharing among the teachers during the two-day there.

Originally there were two churches in Rio de Janeiro to host us but because of a miscommunication, we were only able to work with one of them. The members from the Chinese Gospel Church of Christ in Rio are mostly from Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province. This was the first time they hosted a mission team and they spent a lot on our lodging and food. The living expenses are very high in Rio and we felt really bad about that. We spent half a day visiting the Christ the Redeemer and it was a most beautiful sight. There were many Cantonese who operate slot machine shops in the city. But our mission for this trip was to target discipleship training of the local believers. We left early in the morning and returned late at night everyday. Most of our team members began to develop sore throats and colds.

We split our team during our last stop to work in Curitiba and Belo Horizonte. Our family went with Chi-ming and Ester To to Curitiba. To's coughing got really bad when we arrived there. The brothers from that church had to take him to the hospital but thankfully after taking some medication, he felt much better. Our family went with Deacon Hung to visit a family from Taishan who moved from East Africa and had a good sharing. We had three days of VBS in Curitiba. Church members were all pouring themselves into the task. Some even closed their business to serve in the church. The whole event went very lively. We were not of much help since the lessons were conducted in Portuguese. The day when the story of the 5 fish and 2 loaves were taught, I made fish-shaped balloons and a game of fishing. Wang explained the gospel box to the children on the last day. The rest of the mornings, afternoons, and evenings we went with the three deacons to visit many shops to understand the local gospel needs. Deacon Hung and Deacon Huang, the two elderly deacons, have a particular burden for the local Cantonese-speaking Chinese. They asked if we could send some Cantonese-speaking missionaries to their midst. The gospel target there can be divided into three groups: the first one are Taishan-Chinese from East Africa who do not know Chinese; the second group are middle-

aged Cantonese-speaking and young Taishan-Chinese who can speak Mandarin; the third group are Chinese from Hong Kong who hope the church can begin Portuguese-speaking classes for the new immigrants. On our last day, Deacon Huang and another brother drove two cars to take us do some sightseeing. Curitiba was rated the third sustainable city in the world. It is beautiful and clean and the living expenses are not that high compare to Sao Paulo and Rio. Our family stayed two more days and under the hospitality of Deacon Huang, we saw more sights, joined some family fellowship meetings, did visitations and further understood the gospel needs there. Deacon Hung once again met with us to discuss the needs of their church and beyond. Now that I have returned to the U.S., my heart still thinks of them fondly.