



## Brazil Short Term Mission Reflections

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I was raised in a Christian family, so since I can remember I've been attending Sunday school and church services. Being a life-long Christian, I've heard countless times the messages about missions and short term mission (STM). But I've always felt that belong to other gifted Christians and had nothing to do with me. As long as I support them behind the scene through prayers and donations, that'd be enough. And I've also never been on the street to pass out gospel tracts, because I don't like to strike up conversations with strangers. However, about four years ago, the Holy Spirit instilled a thought in my heart to serve in the mission ministry. But at first I resisted, and I even turned down an invitation from my church's Mission Committee. Yet that thought wouldn't go away. It wasn't until about three years ago, when Christine Pi approached my wife and I about the calling to serve in Brazil STM then I finally submitted. I traveled to Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2018 for my very first STM trip.

Porto Alegre is a major city in southern Brazil, and also the capital of the province of that region. The population is about four million, although the Chinese population is only about three or four thousand. I followed the other STM team members to visit the many gift shops or fashion shops operated by the Chinese immigrants in the downtown area, gave them gospel tracts and invited them to attend the local Chinese church. After I started participating in the actual mission, my earlier worries and lack of confidence quickly vanished. Instead, I personally experienced the great needs of the mission field.

The newly arrived immigrants tend to be hard working but not well educated villagers from China. They left their homes and moved to the other side of the world, where the language is foreign to them, to run small businesses just to improve their families' living conditions. Most of them were friendly; they talked to us and accepted the gospel tracts. But they also have many hardships in practical terms. They have to tend to their shops 24/7, such as to receive merchandise, affix price labels, set up displays, and do theft prevention. They manage everything by themselves from 9AM to 9PM every day. Although most shops aren't open on Sundays, but they need the time to clean up warehouse or move merchandises; there's still no time to rest. The immigrants don't reject the gospel, and they all want peace in their lives, but they're resigned to the demands of life and are tied down by the many limitations. The STM team had hosted a special dinner meeting, and we purposely picked a place close to downtown so it'd be convenient for them to take the city bus. It was a good turnout that night and we were all encouraged. Furthermore, we all agreed there must be follow up so the seeds of gospel could keep growing.

So this year I returned to Porto Alegre for my second STM trip. There was familiarity when I visited the same shops as last year, and a few shop owners even remembered me. When I talked to them I felt the distance between us was closer. This year the STM team specially made intricate bookmarks and refrigerator magnets decorated with the passage from Psalm 3:5, which states God will always protect us. Many people remarked the gifts were beautiful and happily accepted them. It's our hope they'd be reminded of the love of God through those gifts.

But there's a shop owner who has been very unfriendly towards us. Last year we purposely bought a bag in his shop so we could spend more time to talk to him. Yet he just took our money and then sternly told us to leave his shop! This year we again approached his store, and Christine Pi told me "You can go talk to this mean guy!" I took a deep breath and walked to the counter with another teammate. The shop owner didn't even raise his head and told us coldly that he remembers us, and he knows very well what we try to do, but he's still not interested. Although we were rejected again, yet I



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## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for Rev. Douglas & Whitney Wu's pioneering work in Johannesburg. Ask for God to provide physical and spiritual health, and also wisdom in facing their challenges and needs. May God provide local brothers and sisters to serve and to attract more people to God.
2. Pray for Rev. Douglas & Whitney Wu's ministry in shepherding the Rustenburg church. May God keep them safe as they commute between Pretoria, Rustenburg, and Johannesburg.
3. Pray for Alex & Nicole Ko's ministry in shepherding the Pretoria church. Ask God for His grace and guidance.
4. Pray for the brothers and sisters of the Pretoria church in their willingness to study God's word, and pray for the coworkers to be close to God's will in their service so they may enjoy spiritual growth.
5. May God bless the brothers and sisters of the Belo Horizonte church so they'd continue to attend worships. Also ask God to provide strength to the coworkers, and joy for the brothers and sisters as they serve and share the burden in preaching the gospel.
6. Because of the economic situation in Salvador, there're only five or six believers who continue to attend the Sunday services. May God have compassion and watch over them so they're not discouraged due to the low numbers, and continue to be good witnesses for spreading the gospel.
7. Ask God to bless the brothers and sisters of the Recife church so they're willing to attend church and Bible studies, and to take root in their faiths.
8. Pray for the Happy Teens group in Sao Paulo that they may be attracted by God's love and wanting to know God better. Pray for wisdom for the teachers in helping the youths not only in their academics, but also to grow spiritually.
9. Ask God to bless the pastor and elders of the Porto Alegre church as they lead the church in knowing God better and learning to serve. Especially remember their gospel work among the Chinese small businessmen, and may God open their hearts to accept Jesus Christ.
10. Ask God to bless the coworkers of the Campinas church so they can continue to work together with one heart to spread the gospel, and also to be focused in learning how to equip the believers.
11. Most of the coworkers in Brazil Chinese churches are spiritually young and need a permanent pastor to lead them in areas of church management, discipleship, spiritual growth, and gospel outreach. May God give wisdom to CIM coworkers in their effort to recruit other local church leaders to join this ministry, and to equip the believers to spread the gospel to the lost.
12. CIM Canada is continuing its effort in cross cultural ministry at Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God for guidance in the gospel work with the Roma people, and for more brothers and sisters to participate in the ministry.
13. Ask God to bless CIM coworkers with wisdom, so we can serve faithfully and accomplish what God has bestowed upon us. Pray for God to add more brothers and sisters to join the ministry.
14. Pray for God to provide abundantly for the financial needs of CIM.

felt encouraged because he remembered our gospel talk from last year, and this time he didn't tell us to leave! We still gave him the bookmark and the magnet, and I believe the Holy Spirit will soften this hardened heart, but we need to continue to follow up.

To go from California to Porto Alegre requires two plane transfers, and total travel time exceeds 24 hours, which is truly tiring. But I think actually I benefited the most from serving in STM. Whether I perform sowing or harvesting work is in God's hand, but it forces me to study better God's word, otherwise I wouldn't be able to build up others when opportunity comes. A good example would be the two special topics I had to prepare for the youth fellowship of the local church. It behooves me to really understand the Biblical principles in the messages so I could relay them accurately to the youths, isn't it? Lastly, sitting in the comfortable church listening to others talk about mission was too abstract. Until I personally stepped into the mission field then I understood the physical and spiritual demands; mission is also blood and tears! Lord Jesus has given us the Great Commission, and he has died for our sins. We have no excuse but to continue to spread this love to all others who are not yet saved.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

June 2019

	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>General</b>	\$14,991	\$7,659	\$7,332
<b>Missions</b>	\$12,123	\$7,792	\$4,331
<b>Total</b>	\$27,114	\$15,451	\$11,663

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