



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

02.01.20223

Brazil's Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church STM Sharing

~Rev Jorge Loo

Since March 2022 when we visited Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church during the pandemic until November 2022, we went to short-term missions there three times, the last time being November 23rd to 29th. This time there were three of us, Pastor Ye Dan, sister Fu and me. Both Pastor Ye and Sister Fu went there for the first time. She wanted to know the brothers and sisters of the church and further understand the current situation of the church in order to better plan ministries for the church. Sister Fu's main task was to preach personally and testify for the Lord. She is from Wenzhou, so it is easier for her to meet and know the local overseas Chinese, as many of them are from Qingtian and Wenzhou.

Most of the Chinese shops in *Belo Horizonte* are located in the two shopping malls in the city center. One of the two is called *Xavante*, and the other is called *Oiapoque*. These two malls are open facing each other, so it is very convenient to visit these Chinese, because they are all nearby, regardless of whether they are church members or not. The owner of *Xavante* Commercial Center is a Jewish descendant and a Christian named *Leonardo Pereira Furman*. Since he knew that our purpose of coming to the city was to help the growth of the local Chinese church, he has always supported our ministry. Every time we came to do free clinics, he would free up space in the *Xavante* business center for us to do it, and he asked his staff to assist us as much as possible to meet our needs. Because the location for the free clinic is in the *Xavante* commercial center, it is convenient for Chinese people to come to see the doctor, thank the Lord!

This time the ministry is still mainly based on free clinics and visitations. In September 2022, when the CIM USA short-term mission team went to Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church to serve, we had already done free clinics and visits. Therefore, this time, we will come to *Belo* again. There are already people waiting for our arrival to see a doctor. In particular, there is a family of overseas Chinese from Taiwan who have lived in this city for more than 20 years. Their family has not yet believed in the Lord. The couple brought their young daughter to see a doctor, hoping that the church can help her, not just physically, but spiritually as well. In addition, during the visit, Sister Fu met a sister, *Lin Haiyan*, from Wenzhou who started coming to church. Pastor Ye also provided personal counseling to some members of the church, thank the Lord!

Nearly 40 people participated in the in-person worship on that Sunday. In addition to the Chinese, *Elda*, the Brazilian teacher's wife, also brought *Guto*, a Brazilian seminary student, to get to know the church and the young people in the church. I hope that *Guto* can help young people there in the future. During this Sunday worship, Sister Fu also gave her personal family testimony. Her testimony brought encouragement and exhortation to brothers and sisters, and caused a lot of repercussions in the church. Thank the Lord the next day we also went to get to know another Brazilian Baptist church, the Barro Preto Baptist Church, to see if this church could lend us a place to meet on Sunday, because the Chinese church needs to find a new meeting place.

In 2023, the focus of CIM's ministry in Brazil will be on the Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church, hoping to help the church grow, fully restore the in-person worship, and strengthen the youth ministry. Let the Church be able to shine a good witness for the Lord in this city .

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the colonoscopy, gastroscopy and other examinations of Whitney Wu, and Rev. Wu's liver ultrasound and heart ultrasound examination, and pray for the Lord's peace upon them.
2. Please pray for the deteriorating law and order in South Africa and the increase in kidnapping of Chinese businessmen. May the Lord grant peace and keep the brothers and sisters coming in and going out safe.
3. Please help the new year's ministry plan for Pastor Alex Ko and ask the Lord to lead the stability of the church in-person worship, various ministries to resume, and coworkers to be equipped in their serving.
4. In the past few years of service, Pastor Ko had come into contact with some depressed gospel friends or brothers and sisters, and recently he met such gospel friends again. May the Lord grant him wisdom to lead and help these people, the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts so that they can accept Jesus and experience God.
5. Pray for a new meeting location for the Belo Horizonte Chinese church and that brothers and sisters will actively participate.
6. Pray for the ministry of the Youth Fellowship of the Belo Horizonte Church.
7. Pray for the Chinese church in Salvador to resume Sunday gatherings in person.
8. Pray for Ukraine as Russia continues their invasion of the country. Pray for House of Mercy and their community as they are helping refugees who have flocked to their area. Attacks have increased in the recent weeks and many civilians have been killed.
9. Pray for the pastors and teachers that CIM Canada supports in Ghana and Togo. Inflation is currently very high and the cost of living including petrol, food, and power have increased significantly and many are struggling to get by financially.
10. Pray that CIM Canada will be able to send STM teams again this year and also that we can support pastoral development in Ghana, Togo, and also the Roma communities in Ukraine.
11. 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.
12. 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

Dec 2022

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$86,938	\$20,406	\$66,532
Missions	\$160,445	\$113,705	\$46,740
Total	\$247,383	\$134,111	\$113,272

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!



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