

Chinese International Missions, Inc.

12.01.2025

Reflections on the 2025 Brazil Short-Term Mission

~ Grace Lin

Thanks be to the Lord for His guidance and protection! From September 2-17, the Lord did not refuse me but used me, a "rookie team leader," to lead a team on a STM trip to Brazil for the second time. After returning, I was indeed very tired, but my heart was filled with joy and gratitude, because every STM trip is a journey of experiencing God's wonderful grace, and each experience is unique.

First, I give thanks to our team! This year's STM trip was a combination of two teams. One team consisted of brother Wang Feng (CCIC-Central San Jose), Sister Yao Lihua (River of Live Christian Church & Overseas Theological Seminary), and Pastor Lin Qiao (Central Chinese Christian Church-Palo Alto) from the San Francisco Bay Area; the other team was a team of doctors from Brazil — Rev Jorge Loo and his wife, Dr. Xie, and sister Zhang Chaoling. Thanks be to the Holy Spirit for their guidance and protection! Every team member not only did their best in their own ministry but also proactively shared the burden with their teammates. Throughout this time, we were able to communicate openly, encourage and support each other. After the trip, our understanding of each other deepened, and our relationships became even closer. The unity of our hearts led to real action. From months of preparation before departure until our return, I felt the Lord's presence, and we were in the Lord, loving one another.

Belo Horizonte Church: Receiving abundant grace and love from the Lord, the church is thriving even more this year. Under the training of Rev Loo and Minister Ye Dan, the staff members have matured considerably in both spiritual life and ministry compared to last year. Since January, the addition of Pastor Yau and his positive interactions with other church members have made the church more stable.

What impressed me most was sister Claudia, the young minister of the youth fellowship. She remained incredibly enthusiastic, loving, and proactive, pastoring the youth in the church like a mother and an older sister. Many of the youths loved her care and guidance. Several of these youths had only been in Brazil for a little over a month, and they all gave very positive responses to my session on September 5th. Four of them made their monastic vows on September 14th! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Currently, youths make up almost half of the entire church. These young people are the future of the church. May the Lord protect and guide them, attracting even more young people to know Him

Belém: We deeply felt that Christ's love transcends race and culture. Sister Zhang Qiong, a local resident, warmly welcomed our STM team. Because of her good relationship with the Brazilian church and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, we treated many Brazilians during our rural medical outreach.

We also spent two days in the city center providing medical care and evangelism to the local Chinese community. We witnessed the positive impact of Rev Loo and his wife's long-standing volunteer clinic – the local Buddhists are becoming increasingly friendly. The Christian medical team's compassion and perseverance led Rev Loo to praise it as "great love." Although the Chinese community's interest in Christianity is limited, and evangelism remains a long and arduous task, we believe that God's salvation will soon come to Belém.

Salvador: This is my second STM trip here. Although some of the Christians I met years ago have moved away due to the pandemic and other reasons, we were still warmly received by sister Nana, brother Jianliang, and brother Enle. They contacted the local Chamber of Commerce to provide the mission team with a suitable venue and time for free medical consultations and evangelism. We also had very in-depth faith-based Q&A sessions with the local Chinese community. We were pleasantly surprised by the people's interest in Christianity. We pray that the Holy Spirit will gather and help the local Christians to resume their meetings, even if it starts with Bible study groups or attending the Zoom Bible study and training courses led by Rev Loo, so that they can take on the important responsibility of evangelism among the local Chinese community.

During this STM visit, we discovered that many Chinese people came to Brazil out of necessity, due to lack of employment opportunities in China. Most of them spoke of their displacement from their homeland with undisguised sorrow, a truly poignant situation. However, many others only had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and later came to faith after arriving in Brazil. This includes many young people. Currently, Brazil has a new policy: foreign nationals can only attend school in China up to junior high school graduation; high school and higher education are reserved for children with Chinese citizenship. Therefore, during the STM visit, we had the opportunity to share the Gospel with these teenagers who came to Brazil after junior high school. In the Book of Acts, the disciples, persecuted and forced to leave Jerusalem, spread the word of the Lord everywhere. Today, those

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Who had to leave China for Brazil have the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Furthermore, locals estimate that more and more people, especially young people, will leave China for Brazil.

I remember thinking about when I could go to the Amazon region to share the Gospel, a region the CIM STM team had never been. Just the day before this mission ended, Rev Loo showed me a text message from a pastor from the Sao Luis Baptist Church in Brazil. It said something like: seeing the growing Chinese population in the area, they felt a burden to share the Gospel with them; they hoped to collaborate with the CIM STM team to begin this ministry. After reading the message, I exclaimed in surprise and admiration, "This is truly the work of the Holy Spirit!" Rev Loo smiled and said, "Didn't you mention wanting to go to the Amazon region for a STM? Look, someone is already approaching you for collaboration!" It seems we need to prepare new targets for next year's STM.

The God who calls and leads us does things in a unique way. Having to move to foreign lands is seen as unfortunate in traditional Chinese thought, but in God's hands, it is a path of grace, a beautiful arrangement by which God intends to save everyone. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)

This STM trip has made me realize even more deeply that there is a great need to share the Gospel with the Chinese community in Brazil. Looking around, there are many crops to be harvested, but few workers. I earnestly pray that the Lord will send more workers to harvest His crops.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

- 1. Please pray for the Christmas ministry of Minister Alex Ko. The currently scheduled events are: Christmas party on November 23, Gospel Sunday on November 30, evangelism at the shopping mall on December 6, Christmas youth concert on December 21, and ministry at the Gospel drug rehabilitation center on December 25. We ask the Lord to use them, to open the door to the Gospel for them, and to add grace and strength to them.
- 2. Pray for the Lord's guidance in the development of Minister Ko's ministry in *Polokwane*. Currently, the number of fellow believers and believers they need to visit is increasing, and their time is running out. They plan to allocate more time there in the future. Pray for God to help Minister Ko and his team wisely manage this. Local brothers and sisters often struggle with both environmental and spiritual disturbances. Pray for the Holy Spirit to protect and strengthen the hearts of brothers and sisters.
- 3. Thank the Lord for arranging the move to a new place for them and allowing Gospel friends who helped to witness God's work.
- 4. Please pray for the registration of Belo Church with the government and for its official name to be changed to Belo First Chinese Baptist Church.
- 5. Pray for the rental space for the church's meeting.
- 6. Pray for the growth of Sister Claudia and the youth group she led.
- 7. Pray for the finances of CIM Ministries. The economic situation in Canada may become very unstable with the uncertainty of a tariff trade war with the U.S. resulting possibly with less donors. Pray for new donors and a healthy general fund to run our ministries.
- 8. Please pray for Pastor Isaac as he has been diagnosed with colon cancer spreading now to his liver.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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

Oct 2025

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$52,608	\$13,835	\$38,773
Missions	\$44,230	\$39,682	\$4,548
Total	\$96,838	<u>\$53,517</u>	<u>\$43,321</u>

To contribute to CIM ministries:

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

