Chinese International Missions, Inc.

11.01.2026

Short-Term Mission
Belo Horizonte, Brazil 2026 (part I)

~ CIM Board Member Minister Grace Lin

From September 7th to 15th this year, we visited the Belo Horizonte area. Unlike previous short-term mission trips focused on medical outreach and evangelism, this trip emphasized staff training, Bible counseling, and prayerful support. It was more like a retreat specifically for the Belo Church, aiming to strengthen the brothers and sisters' love and unity in Christ through visits, lectures, and interactive games. I have participated in mission trips in different regions and organizations, but this one was very practical and effective, especially in its explanations of the Bible, which were easy for them to understand and apply.

Six days isn't a long time, but through visitations, fellowship meetings, and the tailor-made seminars, worship hymns, and Sunday messages, we had the opportunity to get to know the church brothers and sisters more deeply, and to feel God's presence, protection, and guidance within this church. If I had to summarize this trip in a few words, I would say: spiritual gifts, mutual cooperation, and connection in the love of Christ.

I. Visitation: Listening - Understanding - Caring – Encouraging

In the past few days, we visited/interviewed many brothers and sisters. Our focus was on Brother Paul. From his sharing, we saw how the Holy Spirit worked little by little in his life. He had fully supported his wife, Sister *Guiying* Wang, in her ministry at church, while he himself remained a staunch seeker. Last month, the news of his baptism filled us with immense joy. We were also eager to hear his testimony of salvation. Brother Paul told us about his nearly sixty-year journey since immigrating to Brazil before graduating from junior high school, including his education, work, marriage, and raising children. He emphasized it was that due to his experiences of being taken advantage of, deceived, and even wronged many times. However, when it came to making a decision to believe in God, he said, "I'm serious." This was mainly due to the sharing of Gospel he received from Christians around him over the years, their conduct in Christian life, and the long-term dedication of short-term mission teams from Canada and the United States. Finally, he was moved and made the decision to be baptized. Brother Paul's beliefs were simple and unpretentious, which he summarized into three sentences: 1) Lord, I love you; 2) Lord, I need you; 3) Lord, I thank you. Later, I encouraged him to add a fourth sentence: 4) Lord, I submit to you.

In fact, most brothers and sisters want to be heard and understood, but no one is willing to take the time, initiative, patience, and seriousness to listen to their hearts. Previous short-term mission trips were always packed with activities, and visitations and exchanges were always rushed. Therefore, the people were unable to open up and share their true feelings. This time, we deliberately focused on visiting and interviewing them, with the longest interview exceeding two hours. Each exchange allowed us to get to know a member of the faith better—their family, their history, and their real situation in Brazil regarding life and faith. Some brothers and sisters have been believers for many years, some are seeking the faith, some are experiencing pressure from family, marriage, and work, and there are also teenagers who have just arrived in Brazil and are adapting to a new environment. We increasingly realize that missionary work is not just about "telling the message to others." Often, missionary work began with sitting down and listening to someone's story. We listened to their experiences, their difficulties, their joys, and their expectations for the church, their faith, and the future. When we are willing to listen, the distance between people begins to shorten, and relationships begin to be built.

II. God's Protection has Always Been Present

During a meeting, we had the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Belo Church's experiences over the past two years and to hear the key coworkers' views and feelings about the past two pastors. Sister *Weimiao* Lin and Brother *Guanping* Zhou, in particular, shared their experiences directly and frankly. We listened attentively and learned a great deal. These two coworkers have been with the church for many years, experiencing different stages of its development and witnessing the comings and goings of members and the turnover of pastors. I remembered last year we enthusiastically went to look at a rental property, thinking it would be an ideal meeting place prepared by God. However, things didn't go as planned. The main reason was the pastor's deviation in attitude and behavior, which severely impacted the church, and key coworkers, like Lin, almost left. After that pastor left at the end of last year, brothers and sisters became more united than ever before, working together to do a good job in the church's ministry. Sister Lin described in great detail the process of the church's registration and rental last year and clearly expressed her feelings. They all believed that the church belonged to everyone, not just the preacher's personal business. Preachers should respect the coworkers and listen to everyone's opinions, instead of being condescending and treating church workers and brothers and sisters like a boss treats his employees.

What I am very grateful for is that behind these experiences, we still see that God's protection and care have never left the church. Although there have been frequent changes in pastors lately, and there is still no full-time pastor at the church, brothers and sisters have become more and more united. More are willing to take on responsibilities and participate in serving. In particular, Zhou has experienced significant growth in his personal life and work since he came to faith, and he is increasingly willing to take on serving. He is now a core co-worker in the youth fellowship, and several young people and teenagers attend the meetings because they like this older brother. This shows us that: First, pastors have a great influence on the church. If a pastor has the mind of Christ, serves faithfully, and feeds the Lord's lambs according to the Lord's will, then he will help the members' spiritual growth and lead the whole church to develop and grow. Otherwise, it is easy for co-workers to be hurt or even forced to leave the church, thus harming the church.

At the same time, the church is the body of Christ. Like any other local church, Belo Church is not solely built upon one pastor, but rather on the willingness of every member to rise up and serve in Christ. We

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give thanks for Belo Church and pray for their future. From the history of this church, we see God's constant protection and guidance. May the Lord protect them, so that no matter how circumstances change, they may hold fast to their first love, loving and supporting one another in Christ.

Thursday Special Topic - Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

I led the first special topic gathering during this mission trip. After dinner, our team led everyone in singing hymns to worship the Lord. After worship, I began sharing from the Bible. First, I explained the meaning of each verse. Then, I organized and summarized the various spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible and created a clear table so that everyone could more intuitively understand the different spiritual gifts.

To help everyone gain a deeper understanding of themselves, we later conducted a very interesting "Spiritual Gifts Quiz". This quiz simply aimed to help each person better understand themselves, recognize the gifts God may have placed in their lives, and reflect on: How can God use me? How can I better serve Him? Christians often are unaware of their own gifts or how they can participate in service. Through this kind of learning and reflection, brothers and sisters can gain a clearer understanding of their direction. Spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit according to His own will. Each person who receives a gift not only has the ability to serve God but also needs to submit to God's will to best utilize those gifts.

When explaining spiritual gifts, I also shared my own life experience. In the past, I was indifferent and even very pessimistic because I couldn't find meaning in life; I felt the world was gray. But after believing in the Lord, because of experiencing His love, my worldview underwent a tremendous change. The whole world felt colorful and wonderful. Because I have received God's love and Christ's salvation, my heart is filled with gratitude, joy, and hope. My greatest joy is sharing the gospel, so that people may also accept the salvation of Jesus Christ and become children of God, just as we have. I asked the brothers and sisters present, "What kind of person do you think I am now?" Everyone's answers were remarkably consistent: enthusiastic, sincere, generous, caring... Hearing these evaluations, I felt that this in itself was a very beautiful testimony. Spiritual gifts are certainly important, but what God values is not just what a person "can do," but whether a person's life has been transformed by Christ. A person who was originally pessimistic becomes positive and optimistic because of knowing the Lord; a person who was originally only concerned with themselves begins to care for and serve others—such a life transformation is itself the truest testimony of the Gospel. Spiritual gifts can help us serve, but life transformation can witness to God—the true and living God. May the Lord help us to open our eyes and see the value of every person in the church.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

1. Thanks be to the Lord, there will be a baptism service at the PECCC in November. So far, three brothers and sisters have signed up. Pastor Alex and his team pray that the Lord will continue to encourage other brothers and sisters who are struggling and have obstacles in their hearts, so that they may also have the courage to be baptized and bear witness for the Lord.
2. Thank the Lord, in terms of university ministry, in addition to the local Chinese in South Africa, they have recently come into contact with exchange students from China. They plan to hold a gospel event for students at the end of November. They pray that the Lord will guide Pastor Alex and his colleagues in their ministry so that they may win people for the Lord.
3. South Africa will hold local elections on November 4th, and large-scale demonstrations are expected across the country. They pray that the Lord will protect peace in all regions and lead Pastor Alex and his team to spread the Gospel more amidst the turmoil.
4. Pray that Jianliang Zhuang and Qianqian Mao, a couple from Salvador, can attend weekday gatherings and Sunday worship services at the Belo Church in Brazil.
5. Pray for the Chinese workers building the bridge from Salvador to Itaparica and for the Chinese workers at the BYD, a Chinese electric automobile, factory, asking God to open a way for them to hear the Gospel. Also pray for the Brazilian missionaries who are burdened with the mission of the Gospel.
6. Please pray for Pastor Isaac, whose health condition has become critical. He is currently hospitalized and in need of God's healing, strength, and peace.
7. Please pray for the CIM Canada Board and staff as they gather for their Annual Meeting in Vancouver on November 6-8. Pray for wisdom, unity, and God's guidance in all discussions and decisions. Please also pray for Tomson Chan as he serves as Acting Executive Director. Pray that God will grant him wisdom, discernment, strength, and grace as he leads and supports the ministry.
8. Please pray for God's provision for the financial and operational needs of CIM Canada ministries, particularly the ongoing work in Ghana and Ukraine.
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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Sept 2026

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	$38,042	$11,318	$26,724
Missions	$44,826	$40,516	$4,310
Total	$82,868	$51,834	$31,034

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