

Harvest: Brazil

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“The word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire.”

Isaiah 55:11

Signs of God's Kingdom are tangible expressions of obedience.

Sometimes they're the response of participants in our trainings, sometimes they're the response of mutual encouragement that we experience with our peers, and other times they're the result of mentorship. Teaching, encouraging people, and mentoring pastors and church leaders in biblical wholism is a permanent agenda for me. Here are some signs of God's Kingdom to celebrate:

- A teacher of PE decided to loose weight and return to his job and bless his neighbors. He is the pastor of a small church that wants to be relevant to their community and they're learning to serve the needy. How do they do this? Once a week they get together and help distribute soup and dialogue with street people, prostitutes and homosexuals.

- A church leader started a church planting project. He already serves as chaplain in a public school with focus on drug prevention, and coordinates the project to feed and evangelize street people.

- A businessman lost his job. He faced a time of personal crises but persevered in serving God. Eventually he decided to pursue studies and learn a new vocation. He is devoted to use his professional skills to serve impoverished communities. His church serves a slum community, is open 7 days a week and is the place where the neighbors learn computer skills.



- A church had an association that was closed by the government. The leaders didn't give up but continued to serve their poor neighbors making soap bars, selling them, and raising funds to help families with members that are chronically ill.

- A group of pastors organized a national network where they integrate faith based, not for profit, and government organizations. Their idea is to share institutional capabilities and assets to work towards common goals.

- A foreign missionary did a seed project to touch an impoverished community in the four areas of Luke 2:52. They distributed food, showed an evangelistic film and shared the Gospel in an open air event, they socialized with community members and encouraged them to apply biblical teachings. That project was the beginning of a church planting initiative. A healthy church started, they rented a place to meet. Today the church is self-supported.

- A center for drug rehabilitation was facing several difficulties in their organization. They received assistance from external consultants who helped them apply principles of biblical wholism. They re-structured their organization, overcame their difficulties, and now successfully run 6 homes with an average of 50 people, a national program to train health workers, and help support a Bible school.
- A young pastor applied teachings of biblical wholism as the approach to reach out to the Gypsy population – about 800,000 people in Brazil. He helps them get legal documents, learn to read and write, navigate in the public health system, and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- A young pastor leads 130 youth to do chaplaincy in two public schools. They play games, and facilitate discussions about chastity and drug prevention.
- A couple left their careers in the area of graph design to coordinate 22 social projects in a church of 3,500 members. They apply principles of biblical wholism in all of them. Some examples are projects for recycling products, income generating for poor women, making of bags with recycled materials, and sowing T-shirts.
- An enthusiastic student of worldview has done research about the teachings of Kuyper and Dooyeweerd. He created his own lessons and integrated them in a curriculum of biblical wholism, which he periodically teaches at YWAM and L'Abri Brazil.
- A couple attended our training at YWAM. They raised the funds for a mission trip, went to Nepal, learned about the needs in that country, served and encouraged local pastors. They are a model of entrepreneurial spirit and availability to serve in the Kingdom.
- Two health professionals, a doctor and a nurse, left their careers and dedicated themselves to serve tribal groups in the Amazon. They provide health services and organize brigades to assist the poorest of the poor living in modest conditions.
- A museologist left the urban settings and started an informal school and nutrition center in the Amazon jungle. They provide tutoring and nutrition for 350 children on a daily basis. They also do community projects proclaiming the gospel and providing drinking water to numerous families. Churches have been blessed with their water systems and are able to share clean water with 30-40 families in their neighborhoods. The children who receive tutoring are the best students in the public schools. They're expanding the facilities of this school to train leadership and reproduce this model to other villages in the jungle.

God's Word does not return empty, and these signs are tangible expressions of such reality. All these experiences were shared at the Harvest staff meeting on May 29, in Curitiba, when 21 people among our staff and volunteers got together at Lar Betania. These signs also define permanent tasks in our agenda, such as (1) prayer and study of the Scriptures, alone and with each other through personal contact, emails, and skype; (2) consulting with leaders regarding organizational issues; (3) mutual assistance when there are conflicts that interfere in the ministries; (4) fellowship; and (5) provision for sustainability of the work.

Give me the opportunity to respond to you. I'd love to hear your comments about these experiences and know how the Lord has led you in your service. I'm very thankful for the signs of His Kingdom in your life.

Praise and prayer requests

Praise God for the resources (almost 50%) for the building in Cuagu (more details at www.harvestfoundation.org > donate).

Pray for the mobilization of teams for the events (conferences, mentorship, trainings) in August and September in Brazil and sustainability for the follow up.

Pray for anointing in our teaching and God's favor in the lives of the participants in a conference with YWAM in the end of August.

If you'd like to contribute with this ministry, make checks payable to Harvest and send to PO Box 2670, Phoenix, AZ 85002. Include a note with the check designating the funds to "Oliveira" or to "Building Project in the Amazon".

All contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for your participation!