

NORTHEAST BRAZIL TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: October 6-17, 2023

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C for Champion

RMYM was the only yearly meeting that named Northeast Brazil during the Denver Think Tank meeting in May 2021 (Three churches: Denver, Colorado Springs, and Lamar participated) and then followed up by sending two exploratory teams (Denver Friends Church) to Brazil in 2023.

Cassi Coleman, a member of Denver Friends and RMYM has expressed a mission call to Northeast Brazil. However, to launch this field it will take more than RMYM. EFC-ER has expressed interest in Northeast Brazil and has supported Friends' work in the Carpina, Brazil area. There are likely others across EFC-NA who God may be calling.

Others indicating major interest include leaders from World Renewal Brazil: Telê Moraes, John Snow, Pastor Flavio, and Mercia (Sousa area) as well as Rachel Ferguson and Frank Penna from World Renewal, and Pastor Joel and Angelica from the Mirandiba Baptist Church. Our team members from Denver Friends (Phil, Patrick, Cassi, Autumn, Jesse, and Karen) are also champions.

A for Affirmation

We saw the following affirmations in the second visit:

- Pedro in Vieiropolis (Sousa area) and another local family – affirmed our presence and encouraged our ministry in their community.
- Bousano - leader in the Cigano Community of Sousa has a small Christian group but needs spiritual leadership and mentoring.
- World Renewal Brazil - Telê, Flavio, John Snow and the three “friends” pastors are excited about partnering with EFM in Northeast Brazil
- Johnathan (a teacher at the international school) has targeted the Sertão area of Brazil and is burdened by how few workers there are in this unevangelized field.

N for Compelling Need

The percentage of evangelical Christians in the Sertão is less than 1%.

- Telê, President of WR Brazil refers to the Sertão area we visited as the “10-40 window” of Brazil.
- Cigano community. They need spiritual training as well as physical needs such as water, jobs.
- There is a lack of family values and a “hope and a future” throughout the Sertão, especially with men. Women are expected to do everything. Opportunities to engage men will be difficult and is a huge need.
- The Word of God is needed here. Discipleship and self-propagating ministries. There is such spiritual poverty and more importantly spiritual slavery in the Sertão.
- The indigenous Indian tribe, the Atikum. They number 8,000. 10% Christian and less than 1% evangelical Christian.
- Idolatry is a big problem in the Sousa area. Catholic idolatry mainly.

- There is a great need amongst the children and young people for the love of God.
- There is a high percentage of people who need water, basic health care, food, jobs and to address social justice.

G for Gifting

- Spiritual maturity is critical. Intimacy with the Holy Spirit.
- Strength in discernment and application of Scripture
- Strong prayer life.
- The ability to live in harsh conditions (poverty and hot & dry climate)
- Flexibility
- Teaching children in general. Teaching English
- Having a background in basic medicine (EMT trained) and water supply.
- Skill in language acquisition and speaking,
- Having a holistic mindset, people who can identify needs, persevere, teach with educational skills, evangelism, and discipleship.
- Someone who can help the people build ownership through spiritual and human development and creativity (D for D).

O for Opportunity

- Cigano community, there was openness and welcoming spirit as we visited the community.
- Opportunity to teach English online.
- There is a sense of real openness in Mirandiba with the Quilombola people group and the Atikum tribe.
- There are also ministry opportunities in Sousa (a bigger city.)
- There is openness and even invitations for us to come and join in ministry together!
- There are opportunities to learn Portuguese and the culture, teach English or another subject at the World Renewal Brazil International School in Carpina.
- There are also opportunities to learn from local leaders in evangelism, outreach, discipleship, church planting and missions work.
- A “missionary training field.” There are three Friends churches established in the Carpina area already.

Which of the 5 criteria do we see the strongest?

Affirmation, Need and Opportunity.

We had multiple invitations to come, volunteer at the school, start a church, provide training, etc. As described in our trip report, there is great spiritual need in the Sertão. There are people of peace in the Sertão and an openness “to come”.

Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?

Champion. DFC is more of the champion in this situation than any of the other churches in RMYM. The vision for Brazil needs broader investment by Rocky Mountain churches. Although we need additional champions from here in the States, our team feels this is a very needy field with

opportunities if God places the call on EFM and its constituency. Our Team's sense is that "With such Compelling Need, Affirmation to come, and Opportunity, we cannot, not respond".

Describe key point or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place?

March Trip

- Quilombola- There were two special moments. We went into a home of a group of very destitute people and the need in that home was so great. In the same day we went to a community where 2 homes were built, and a well was dug. Needs were met. We saw what the Gospel can do to transform the lives of people. The juxtaposition between the poor and the helped was just so strongly seen.
- The Joshua project mentions about the Atikum people, that there are key prayer points where physical healing can draw people to Christ. That's what story we heard when a Atikum man was healed of his medical condition and him and his whole family accepted Christ!
- The Living Stones project which provides an opportunity for children to be off the streets, expand their education and receive some food. This is a great strategy used by World Renewal Brazil to reach kids and their families for Christ near their planted churches.
- Vieiropolis (Village north of Sousa) -We walked around and talked with two boys who were open to talk and let us pray with them. Wilson asked them to pray for us. Patrick never felt any hesitation to talk about God and the Gospel. Patrick saw opportunity strongly at that time.

October Trip

- Being blessed by the Atikum tribe last time and then seeing the true need for Christian training and discipleship when we came back.
- The Quilombola nighttime street meeting in *Cachoeirinha*. There were more than 100 people and there were more men than usual if it had been in a building. The gathering included families where they watched their children worship.
- Living stones is a fantastic strategy to reach children for Christ and their families.
- Vieiropolis where there were three generations of women seeking to worship God.

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or do you need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?

- In October, we returned to many of the areas in the Sertão we visited in March, and it was well received.
- After our October visit – Prepared this second trip report and updated our CAN GO Report

After our March visit –

- We posted reports on the RMYM website.
- Sent out a letter to the RMYM constituents encouraging them to look on the RMYM website for information on the EFM-RMYM Luke 10 Northeast Brazil Trip. And we plan to go to meet personally with pastors.
- We had a short presentation at the RMYM summer gathering.
- Cassi made a video to send to the RMYM churches.
- We met several times via zoom, once to plan a follow up trip in October 2023.

- Frank and Cassi shared it with Countryside Friends Church (RMYM). Phil and Patrick shared the men's group at Denver Friends church.
- We shared with Friend's Women in June.
- Cassi feels pulled to this ministry. She has begun learning Portuguese and attending English/Portuguese classes 3-4 times a week with Wilson via zoom.
- Cassi keeps in contact with 3 girls she met in Brazil, one of them is from the Atikum tribe.

Northeast Brazil Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM

What is the general sense of the team, concerning a recommendation to EFM's Think Tank?

As we return from this second exploratory trip to Northeast Brazil our hearts resonate with Jesus' words from Matthew 9:37, "The Harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." We hear a definite plea from many "people of peace" in the Sertão and from the few workers in the ministry "*please come and help.*" We feel the Affirmation, Compelling Need, Gifting, and Opportunity are all present to move forward with Northeast Brazil as an EFM mission field.

From our perspective coming from RMYM and mainly the Denver Friends Church we cannot make a commitment for the full EFM constituency. Our recommendation is that EFM prayerfully consider Northeast Brazil as a future ministry point. We join with EFM, praying for additional missionary units (especially a couple or family to join with Cassi's sense of call) to serve in the Sertão of Northeast Brazil. Our only reservation is that we come from a small yearly meeting without the capability to adequately provide all the financial and people resources. However, we believe the ultimate affirmation for EFM in Northeast Brazil, will come from a call on those our Lord is calling to this field.

This is to be a brief summary describing potential next steps in exploration and discernment.

Explore further? Pray that the Lord of the harvest would call workers into the field of Northeast Brazil. How many people will it take to begin a pioneer here? We feel 2 or 3 couples. 2 singles or 1 single and 1 family are needed before a mission work can be launched in Northeast Brazil. These units do not need to all be from the United States! Brazilians or from other countries could also be considered.

Pause exploration for now? No, we feel EFM and EFM's yearly meeting constituents should promote this field actively seeking the appropriate mission units to launch this new field. Certainly, any future exploratory trip should include additional potential missionaries.

Recommend that a new field be opened? Yes