

NORTHEAST BRAZIL PRE-LAUNCH PLANNING REPORT

Provided by EFM's NE Brazil Field Study Group in Rocky Mountain

This report was prepared by Cassi Coleman in collaboration with EFM's NE Brazil field study group from Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting (RMYM)

1. In a brief sentence for each of the five CAN GO criteria, what is the latest update concerning each: Champion/s, Affirmation, Need, Gifting, and Opportunity/Openness.

- **Champion/s:** The number of champions supporting the mission is increasing, fostering a stronger advocacy network for the initiative.
- **Affirmation:** The yearly meeting has become more cohesive, with leaders and members aligning on mission goals and strategies, enhancing overall support.
- **Need:** There is a significant need for the gospel within under reached communities, emphasizing the urgency for missionary engagement in the interior regions.
- **Gifting:** A diverse array of skill sets is emerging among potential missionaries, including teachers, tradespeople, and those with relational skills, which align with the mission's requirements.
- **Opportunity/Openness:** There is an openness to the gospel in the target communities, presenting a ripe opportunity for ministry and the establishment of supportive relationships through existing partnerships like World Renewal Brazil.

2. Compelling conviction to launch (to build just a short paragraph on top of the CAN GO summary). What is the compelling picture that is worth giving our lives or the lives of our sons and daughters to? How might these peoples or places look different because we paid the price to take holistic Good News? What words would sharpen our Help Wanted sign for this new field?

People are asking, 'When can you come?' They recognize their need for help. There is a profound need for the gospel in these areas, where people are open and receptive. They need a reason to hope, a hope and a future. These are underreached communities, with immense opportunities for ministry—both physical and spiritual—within these communities.

3. Strategy : What informal ideas make the most sense at this time for how this mission field will be launched and developed? How does this impact entry strategy?

The Discipleship for Development approach, in partnership with World Renewal Brazil, provides a strategic entry point for launching ministry in the interior. Establishing this partnership as a foundation for ministry offers valuable support, and the presence of another organization ready to collaborate strengthens our initial efforts. In the early stages, we could engage with the Friends churches in Carpina and consider teaching opportunities at the international school to build community connections.

Over the first few years, preparatory trips to the interior could help lay the groundwork and build relationships. We could also explore ministry initiatives for men, focusing on practical skills like gym activities, mechanics, welding, or electronics, which could serve

as effective entry points for discipleship and community building. This strategy leverages both partnership and practical outreach to foster sustainable impact in the region.

4. Visa: What are the visa requirements and what are our best options? What, if anything, does this mean for strategy or preparation?

Visa requirements are changing. Currently, it is unknown how this could affect future missionaries. More research is needed.

5. Skill Sets: What are the skill sets that stand out as we look for missionary candidates for this field? How might people in your church hear the opportunity and call, including those who never imagined themselves as “missionaries.” How might the call for workers help people discover that their life or work experiences, character and interests fit into the missionary team/s? Young adults? Mid-career? Retired? Long term? One to two years of service?

- **Educational Skills:** Teaching English or other subjects in Carpina, across all age groups, offers direct opportunities for ministry.
- **Agriculture and Trades:** Individuals with farming experience, as well as skills in trades like plumbing and construction, bring valuable practical expertise to the community.
- **Water and Medical Professionals:** Water technicians and healthcare providers meet critical needs and can contribute meaningfully to community health and well-being.
- **Discipleship for Development (D4D):** Candidates familiar with D4D principles can help lead spiritual and community transformation.
- **Relational Skills:** Those who are naturally relational, good listeners, and able to engage meaningfully with others will be essential to building trust and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **Diverse Team Composition:** We seek to form a multigenerational team, with roles for retirees, young families, singles, and individuals at any career stage. This diversity enriches the team and reflects the breadth of the community we’re aiming to serve.
- Ultimately, we need to listen to the people in the community and continue to pray about this.

6. Language Learning: First term missionary’s objectives will focus on language and culture learning through immersion. What relationships and connections might be available for language helpers for language learning through immersion? Are there formal language school options that should be considered? How much will these options cost? How does this impact what city or neighborhood they start?

For first-term missionaries, language and cultural immersion are essential. Building strong relationships and accessing formal or informal learning options will support a

deep understanding of the culture and community. Here's a breakdown of available pathways and our strategic recommendations:

1. **Language Schools in Recife and Carpina:** Both cities offer structured language programs that provide consistency and a systematic approach to language acquisition. Recife, as a larger urban center, has numerous options, while Carpina also offers dependable language schools on a smaller scale. Monthly tuition for these programs typically ranges from \$200–\$500, depending on program length and intensity.
2. **Immersive Language Practice in the Interior:** For those ready for direct language immersion, learning in the interior—such as in Boa Esperanza, possibly with a local language partner like Flavio—would be an ideal approach. This experience enables practical language practice and fosters immediate community connections.
3. **Suggested Pathway:** We recommend the initial missionaries or missionary families begin language training in Recife or Carpina. This setting provides the necessary structure and resources to build language skills while easing into Brazilian culture. Once foundational skills are established, future missionaries could start directly in the interior, aligning with our goal of eventually centering the mission there.
4. **Impact on Mission Engagement:** Starting in Recife or Carpina allows missionaries to ease into cultural adaptation, enabling them to join and encourage the missional work of the Friends churches in these areas. This collaboration fosters progress and momentum in their ministry efforts. As language skills develop and community relationships grow, missionaries will be well-prepared to join Friends church initiatives and inspire forward movement in their outreach programs in the interior.

This approach balances structure and immersion, creating well-prepared missionaries ready to serve and contribute meaningfully to both the local community and broader mission objectives.

7. **Location: Where will our missionaries live? What is the region, specific city, or neighborhood?**

Our missionaries will initially reside in the Recife/Carpina area for their first year to acclimate to Brazilian life and participate in intensive language training. This urban setting provides vital resources and cultural exposure.

Once a cohesive team has formed, the transition to the interior regions of Sousa, Boa Esperanza, or Mirandiba will occur together as a group. This collective move will strengthen team dynamics and ensure everyone is equipped to engage with the communities effectively. These interior locations offer unique opportunities for outreach and community engagement, aligning with our long-term mission goals. This phased approach not only enhances language proficiency but also fosters strong local relationships, laying a solid foundation for impactful ministry.

8. Lifestyle: What will the missionary lifestyle look like for their first term of culture and language learning immersion? Will they have a car or use public transportation? Will they live on their own or with someone else?

During their first term of cultural and language immersion, the missionary lifestyle will be focused on building community connections and adapting to the local environment. Ideally, missionaries will live with a local family to enhance their language and cultural training, as this provides invaluable opportunities for daily practice and deeper cultural understanding.

In Carpina, missionaries can rent an apartment, and public transportation will suffice for daily commuting, making a car unnecessary. This arrangement allows them to immerse themselves fully in the community without the added responsibility of vehicle ownership.

Once they transition to the interior regions, such as Sousa, Boa Esperanza, or Mirandiba, renting a home will be essential, and having a car will become necessary to navigate the more rural areas and engage with the communities effectively.

This lifestyle will emphasize relationships, language acquisition, and active participation in local culture, ultimately equipping missionaries for meaningful ministry.

9. Spiritual Issues: What are the significant spiritual issues in the area? How does this impact missionary self-care and support in this particular environment (i.e. coping strategies)?

- **Cultural Religion and Syncretism:** Many locals blend traditional religious practices with Christianity, posing challenges for missionaries in presenting the Gospel effectively.
- **Family Units in Crisis:** Economic instability and social issues have led to weakened family structures, which missionaries will need to address with compassion and support.
- **Isolation and Loneliness:** New missionaries often feel isolated while adapting to a new culture, making community-building essential for emotional support.
- **Overwhelming Needs:** The vast array of community needs can be daunting, leading to potential burnout. Missionaries must learn to prioritize their efforts and set manageable goals.
- **Spiritual Warfare:** Missionaries may face spiritual opposition, necessitating a solid understanding of this dynamic to maintain their well-being and effectiveness in ministry.

To cope with these challenges, missionaries will benefit from strong support networks and self-care strategies, including regular prayer, mentorship, and community engagement. By addressing these issues proactively, missionaries can better prepare for the emotional and spiritual demands of their work.

10. Missionary Care: What needs considered for missionary care in the first term of language learning and culture bonding. What support is required? What pace and rhythms should be considered in this immersion context? Where will the missionary/s go for respite? Are there needs for on-site short- or long-term missionary support personnel? What support or camaraderie already exists in the area of service? What options are there for children's education (if applicable)?

- **Community Support:** Starting in Carpina allows missionaries to adjust culturally and linguistically while benefiting from local support through World Renewal Brazil, which is crucial for emotional and practical assistance.
- **Gradual Transition:** A 6-month to 1-year stay in Carpina is recommended before moving to the interior, enabling adequate time for language acquisition and cultural integration.
- **Respite Options:** Missionaries should identify local areas for relaxation, such as community centers or parks, to recharge. World Renewal Brazil can also help facilitate connections in these areas.
- **On-Site Support Personnel:** Short- or long-term personnel can provide additional support for language learning and practical ministry tasks.
- **Existing Networks:** Collaboration with local churches and organizations fosters camaraderie and a sense of belonging.
- **Children's Education:** In Carpina, there are English schooling options, while homeschooling may be necessary in the interior.
- **Coaching:** Each missionary will have access to an EFM Coach, a Missionary Care Team, and a Language Learning Coach, ensuring comprehensive support.

11. Teams: It is natural to ask "what if" we have one missionary household ready to deploy but we don't have others identified or ready. There are many ways to define teams and each context/scenario will impact the way EFM would have "peace of mind" short or long term in the process of launching and building/developing healthy thriving teams and mission strategy long term. Please identify what missionary or expat personnel outside of EFM are working (or planning to work) in the area of this new field location who could serve as interim or long term "team" support to EFM worker/s. Briefly explain current status of relationship with these persons.

World Renewal Brazil: They offer crucial emotional and logistical support in Carpina and the interior, helping new missionaries acclimate and form community ties.

Local Contacts:

- **Joel** in Mirandiba and **Flavio** in Boa Esperanca are established figures who can assist with introductions and integration for incoming missionaries.
- **Deployment Strategy:** An individual or family could start in Carpina, laying the groundwork until the full team is ready to transition together into the interior.
- **Team Formation:** Launching the team collectively in the interior will foster a strong foundation for mission efforts and community engagement.

12. Support Budget: What will the major field expenses be during the first term?

Housing? Language helper and/or language classes? Transportation? Any insights concerning income levels and lifestyle in the area of service? What else?

- **Housing:** Renting an apartment in Carpina is essential for initial accommodation. The cost can vary but is generally affordable compared to larger Brazilian cities.
- **Language Support:** Expenses for a language tutor or formal language classes will be necessary for effective immersion and communication.
- **Transportation:** A car may not be needed during the first year in Carpina, as public transportation is accessible. However, a vehicle will likely be required when moving to the interior after the first year.
- **Cost of Living:** The cost of food and daily living in Carpina is generally moderate. In the interior regions, costs may be lower.
- **Travel Expenses:** Occasional travel for ministry work or personal needs should be budgeted.
- **Medical Expenses:** Health insurance and potential medical costs must also be considered.

13. Possible Missionaries: Who are possible missionary candidates for this field that we should be talking with and preparing? This includes people who don't have traditional "call" but are willing and able to serve within EFM's missionary qualifications and within context of type of service.

- **Cassi Coleman RMYM:** With experience in community engagement and ministry to the migrant population, Cassi brings valuable skills in relationship-building and cultural integration, making her a strong candidate for missionary work in Brazil.
- **Johnathan:** Currently a missionary from England living in the interior, he has three years of experience working at an international school before relocating. His background in education and familiarity with the local context could be instrumental in establishing connections and supporting new missionaries.
- **YOU?????**

14. Partnerships and relationships with other organizations, or collaborations with other regions/yearly meetings in the U.S.

NOTE: We are not intending to write comprehensive partnership proposals at this point, rather in brief, note key points concerning potential partnerships and what we know at this point.

- Willoughby Hills Friends Church in Ohio
- Indiana Yearly Meeting
- Damascus Friends Church - Ryan Gilby
- Various people in churches across Ohio
- Sung Kim in Southwest yearly meeting

15. What are other insights, questions, concerns, points which need to be noted and remembered?

We are planning a prayer trip this next year and will work on solidifying dates after the first of the year.