



EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION

LUKE 10 TRIPS

EFM NE BRAZIL PRE-LAUNCH PLANNING REPORT

This report was prepared in collaboration with EFM's NE Brazil field study group from Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting and participants from Indiana Yearly Meeting.

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 this new field is increasing, including people from RMYM, IYM and select churches from EFCER. This is fostering a stronger advocacy network for the initiative.

Affirmation: Affirmation of starting this new field has become more cohesive, with leaders and members aligning with mission goals and strategies, enhancing overall support.

Need: There is a significant need for the gospel within under-reached communities, most notably among the Quilombola, Atikum and Cigano people groups. This emphasizes the urgency for missionary engagement in the interior regions.

Giftng: A diverse array of skill sets is useful for this field, including teachers, tradespeople, and those with relational skills. We do not know of any missionary candidates for this field at this time.

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?

When we go to NE Brazil the people are asking, “When can you come?” They recognize their need for the gospel and discipleship. There is a profound need for the transformative message of Jesus in an area where people are open and receptive. These are underreached communities, with immense opportunities for ministry that address both their physical and spiritual needs.

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 would provide a very strategic way to minister in this area given their poverty, high drug and alcohol abuse, and challenging climate. A partnership with World Renewal Brazil, a parachurch organization with strong Friends ties and a wealth of ministry experience in the country, provides valuable support and a strategic foundation as we launch ministry into the interior. The presence of another organization ready to collaborate strengthens our initial efforts. Also, there are 4 Friends churches in the Carpina area near the costal city of Recife that could provide support in the way of prayer and visits to the interior for encouragement, etc. Efforts should be made to establish relationships tied with these churches in the early stages of the ministry. Finally, World Renewal has an international school (they need English teachers) in Carpina where our new missionaries could land first while they are learning the language and settle into the culture. It would also foster community connection with World Renewal and the 4 Friends Churches in the area.

So far, we have taken two exploration trips in 2023 and our first prayer trip in July of this year. We will continue to take prayer trips each year to pray for the soil and help lay the groundwork by building relationships. We plan to concentrate our prayer efforts in the Mirandiba and Caruaru areas where the Quilombola and Atikum people groups reside.

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. We do know, however, that a ten-year tourist visa is required for visitors. Currently, it is unknown how visa requirements will 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 skills for opportunities such as English Clubs, parenting skills, sewing, vocational, etc.

Agriculture and Trades: Individuals with farming experience, as well as skills in trades like plumbing, auto mechanics and construction, bring valuable practical expertise to the community.

Water and Medical Professionals: Water technicians and healthcare providers meet critical needs in this underserved area and can contribute meaningfully to community health and well-being.

Discipleship for Development (D4D): Candidates familiar with D4D principles can help develop 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 community.

Diverse Team Composition: We seek to form a multigenerational team, with roles for retirees, young families, singles, and individuals at any career/life stage. This diversity enriches the team and reflects the breadth of the community we’re aiming to serve.

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:

- **Language Learning Opportunities:**

- **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.
- **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.

- **Our Suggested Pathway:** We recommend the initial missionaries or missionary families begin language training in Carpina. This setting provides the necessary structure and resources to build language skills while easing into Brazilian culture. They could also be involved with World Renewal's international school (perhaps teaching English) and interact with the 4 Friends churches in the area while there. Once foundational skills are established, they could then move to the interior (possibly Caruaru or Mirandiba) where there are large populations of Atikum and Quilombola.
- **Impact on Mission Engagement:** Starting in Carpina allows missionaries to ease into cultural adaptation, enabling them to join and encourage the missional work of the Brazilian 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 Carpina area for their first year to acclimate to Brazilian life (through the international school and other ministries of World Renewal in the area), participate in intensive language training, and strengthen ties with the 4 Friends churches in the area. This urban setting provides vital resources and cultural exposure.

The decision concerning the timing to move into the interior should be made in collaboration with the missionary and EFM staff. Whether to send a missionary into the interior alone or wait for other team members should be a matter of discernment and prayer. It is our recommendation that the transition into the interior is done in context of a missionary team as this collective move will strengthen team dynamics and support EFM's efforts to have teams serving together in ministry on these new fields. Once a cohesive team has formed, we recommend moving to the areas of Mirandiba or Caruaru as these locations have larger populations of Atikum (in Mirandiba) and Quilombola (both in Mirandiba and Caruaru). These interior locations offer strong opportunities for outreach and community engagement that align with our long-term mission goals. We have also established relationships with other ministries in these areas to provide support.

This phased approach not only enhances language proficiency but also fosters cultural awareness and 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.

New missionaries could also rent an apartment upon arrival in the country. Public transportation will suffice for daily commuting in Capina, 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 Mirandiba, Caruaru, or Boa Esperanza, 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 spiritual 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 and the 4 Friends churches in the area. This will be crucial for emotional and practical assistance.
- **Gradual Transition:** A 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 missionaries 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. These are available through World Renewal Brazil, the Friends churches in the Carpina area, and connections with people who minister in the following areas: Mirandiba, Caruaru, Boa Esperanza, and others in the interior who are connected with World Renewal Brazil.
- **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 ex-pat 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:**
 - **Pastors Joel in Mirandiba and Flavio in Boa Esperansa** are established ministers 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.

- **The following people have expressed interest in exploring NE Brazil as they discern if/where God might have them serve as a missionary: Emma Stanfield, Eric Johr, and Andrew Walters.**

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.

- **Partnerships:** Continue to connect in conversation with partner yearly meetings on other continents or partner organizations that have emerged. Name organization and basic summary of why partner with them. As we think about a potential partnership agreement proposal in 2025 (fifth stage), identify summary of what kind of expectations we may have of each other in order to strengthen each other's mission goals? Identify where our expectations and their expectations of the partnership align, and where they differ and need further conversation. What plans have been made or need to be made to develop a proposal (specific dates and places are welcome if applicable).
- **Relationships:** What contacts, organizations and connections would we identify as informal relationships where we might receive consultation, encouragement or support? As we think about these relationships, what notes would we write in order to clarify to EFM what the nature of the relationship is (what will each party give, receive or experience in this relationship).
- **Collaborations:** What other regions/yearly meetings in the U.S. have interest in participating with the field's sponsoring region/yearly meeting in the benchmarks for launching and supporting this new mission? Develop clarity for how the regions will work together at this point, and how the collaboration will be assessed and adjusted.

From the Luke 10 Initiative GLOSSARY

Partnerships and Collaborations: Partnership Agreements are to be written by regional field study groups in collaboration with EFM staff to be proposed to the EFM Board for approval (may involve EFM Think Tank). These partnerships may be “works in progress” in this journey.

- **Multinational partnerships** with international sending yearly meetings. These occur when EFM and a missions-sending board in another yearly meeting outside of the U.S. endeavor to both send missionaries to work together to start/oversee a mission field together.
- **Partnerships with organizations** with whom we may collaborate with in launching the mission. These occur when EFM works formally with an organization in order to accomplish the goals of the mission. We wish to have expectations from both parties summarized in writing for clarity. This does not include informal ‘relationships’ or ‘friendships’ with other organizations or missionaries who we may consult with or collaborate in a strictly relational capacity.
- **Inter-regional/yearly meeting collaboration** within EFC-NA is encouraged to build capacity in the EFM family of churches. This occurs when one or more regions/yearly meetings within the U.S. create an intentional relationship with the sponsoring yearly meeting of a new field in order to help accomplish benchmarks.

Multinational Partnerships: None at this time.

Partnerships with Organizations: World Renewal Brazil. Since this is a parachurch organization, it would make sense to utilize their discipleship and evangelistic programs as well as contacts throughout NE Brazil to carry out our ministry to ultimately plant church. Their wealth of experience in the country and their willingness to partner alongside us in ministry is a gift to us.

There could be mutual support between the two organizations such as regular communication as to what is happening within our ministries, an open invitation to any training (such as SDB or D4D) or other types of other planned events (such as Friends gatherings, Bible training, etc.). It is our understanding that the details of this agreement (if needed) will be worked out between Tele and Dan (the Field Director).

Inter-regional/Yearly Meeting Collaborations:

- RMYM and Indiana Yearly Meeting have agreed to be in partnership in launching this new field in NE Brazil. This partnership has been fostered by inviting them to participate in the Brazil Prayer Team meetings held each month by zoom to pray (some participate from IYM), asking them to participate in the Prayer Trips each year (2 went on the trip in July 2025), and regular communication between RMYM Missions Task Force and Eric Dale.
- There are churches within Eastern Region that have a heart for or are already working in NE Brazil through the efforts of World Renewal Brazil. These churches are: Willoughby Hills Friends Church in Ohio, Damascus Friends Church (Ryan Gilby), and various other people in churches across Ohio
- There is also a tie between NE Brazil and Sung Kim in Southwest Yearly Meeting.
- **Other Partnerships:** There are 4 Friends Churches in the Carpina area where relationships should be fostered. Efforts should be made to extend friendship, cooperation, and mutual support between these churches and EFM missionaries. There are also Evangelical Friends missionaries from Bolivia Yearly Meeting in Sao Paulo where future cooperation may be possible.

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

Concerning the work in Sousa with the Cigano people, when our prayer team visited in July 2025 it was very evident that God was at work in that community raising up leaders within the Cigano people themselves to share the gospel and disciple them in the faith. Because the Cigano are closed and distrustful of outsiders on the whole, we celebrated

that God was raising up spiritual leaders among their own people. The group sensed that the best way we could support what God was doing within this people group is to provide theological training of leaders (through distance training provided by World Renewal), prayer support, and encouragement as fellow believers. We did not sense we should bring in EFM missionaries who would be considered outsiders.

Instead, EFM missionary efforts could be centered around the Atikum and Quilombola people who have an openness to the gospel and to foreigners (people from the United States in particular). These were the discerned thoughts of our prayer team.