

A mission, an organized effort to spread the Good News of Jesus, is not an option for the Christian, it is the calling of the Church and it's an extension of our ALL IN vision - to love God by sharing the gospel whenever there is an opportunity. When it comes to missions, the Sunset leadership has taken steps to facilitate our local church body in engaging and supporting one another in our community and the world whenever and wherever God issues a specific call to connect and move. Sunset Missions Connection hopes to become a quarterly newsletter serving to inform and inspire you to become a part of our Mission to spread to the gospel to lost souls. The newsletter will provide a focused update on one Mission each quarter that our church body currently supports along with providing specific needs for prayer and how you may support further.

Missions Ministry Team-

*John Krapohl, Bob Reeves, Terry Phelps,
Mike Canty, Melody Dowell, Brad McInnes*

Greetings from Recife, Brazil

Church of Christ at Boa Vista, Brazil



Background:

Redeeming Recife is a Christ-centered mission work that has been going on for the past 30 years in the city of Recife, located in the northeast coast of Brazil, largest city in the country with a

population of nearly 4 million. The work in Recife started in 1980, when six missionary families of the churches of Christ arrived in Brazilian soil to begin church planting. The church has since then grown and spread the gospel throughout the city, state and even northeast region. The Boa Vista church is the oldest congregation, located in downtown Recife, and continues its mission to plant further churches and to nurture them into maturity.

After growing up in the suburbs of Detroit, Mike Pruitt traveled south to Lubbock, Texas after college. He dedicated his life to the mission work and enrolled in Sunset School of Preaching to receive biblical training. After graduation, he went to Recife as part of a team of missionaries. A few years after arriving there, he married Aureni, a Christian woman. They have three boys: Joshua, Justin and Jonathan. Mike and Aureni have found

their life's calling in working with the church in the northeast of Brazil and helping develop mature leadership. In following his parents' footsteps, Josh began working in the mission field working in Recife, Brazil, alongside his parents. After finishing High School, he graduated from Lubbock Christian University and finished his masters in Biblical



Interpretation in 2011 and in 2012 married Livia, a faithful Christian woman. They are the parents of Alice and Theo. Josh currently serves as director of the School of the Bible in Recife, ministering basic Bible

courses, theology training and English as a second language using the Bible.

Recife is a city of deep contrasts. On one hand, you have the overwhelming beauty of God's creation; and on the other, you have the brokenness of man. While walking down busy streets you will see rich greenery, warm beaches, colorful artistry and street markets full of fresh fruits, as well as street kids, beggars, ghettos, and garbage piles.

But in the midst of all their problems, Brazilians are a festive people with a deep desire for a relationship with God. The idea of a personal relationship with the Creator through Jesus is a

fairly new one to Brazilians. They have been told for centuries that the Bible cannot be studied or understood by the common folk. This has led to a passionate thirst to be reconnected with God and find transformational community. Life can be hard for most Brazilians, but it is in the midst of suffering that the Good News finds receptive hearts.

COVID-19 Impact- Like the US, Brazilian's are also under the stay home orders to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. As of this update they have some members with COVID-19, but none seriously. Worship videos are distributed each week to members in an effort to encourage and provide hope until this storm passes.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the church welcomed 22 Venezuelan refugees from the Bolivarian Revolution, a nationalist process that resulted in many leaving due to the deterioration of the political, economic and social fabric resulting in high crime, food and healthcare insecurities. Today, these 22 refugees are integrating well, attending church and studying the Bible with a local preacher fluent in Spanish.

Of special note, Aureni's mother passed away this month. It was not COVID-19 related. She was 84 and had been ill. She was a member at the Boa Vista congregation for 35 years. She attended until her health began failing a couple of years ago.

2019 Stats:

- Growth: Planted 20 Local churches
- School of the Bible :
536 Enrollments, 25% increase of 2018;
53 Courses, 32 Subjects, 21 Teachers

Current 2020 Initiatives (already underway)

- Church Leadership training and Development via Emotionally Healthy

Spirituality, a book designed to drive leaders and members from Bible knowledge to the application of spiritual principles to all applications of life.

- School of the Bible: Virtual/Online Bible course offerings

The Sunset congregation has had a collaborative relationship with Recife since they began 1980 and it is our goal to continue to support.

Prayer Requests: Please keep the following requests in prayer for Recife.

- 1) *Prayer Partners: to consistently pray daily for the work of the church and School of the Bible. The staff, the students and Venezuelan refugees.*
- 2) *Members to retain their hope in Jesus amid uncertainty.*
- 3) *Lar Mana Children's Orphanage: Pray for the staff and the physical and spiritual growth of the children.*
- 4) *Individual/Congregational Partners to aid in sponsoring missionaries on the ground at Recife.*
- 5) *Healing for all impacted by COVID-19 pandemic*
- 6) *Aureni Pruitt and her siblings in the loss of their mother.*

Learn more about the missionary efforts in Brazil and how our congregation is supporting the church at Recife at the Redeeming Recife website. You can also subscribe to their newsletter at:

<https://www.redeemingrecife.org/>

If you desire to make a donation to the mission efforts at Recife, proceed to write a check to Sunset Church of Christ with the designation for: Recife Brazil and it will be distributed accordingly.