



November 2023

Dear Friends,

This is Thiago Dantas, coming to you from the Amazon in Brazil. I'm super excited to greet you through this newsletter.

There are some exciting stories and cool insights about our mission world that I'd love to share with you. Things that happened during the summer and also part of the fall. English Camp, Clean Water Project, an incredible Missions Conference, the Mission School, and details of our family life.

Thank you for your prayers and support,

Thiago Dantas

English Camp

The English Camp is a youth camp of IPManaus under the idea of using the English language as a means to evangelize new people. We want to spread the gospel to young folks aged 14 to 21. So, how do we do it? We use the English language to connect with them in creative ways.

For a whole week in July, we had loads of stuff going on at English Camp: workshops on everything from practical skills to deep thoughts about life, games, contests, and some special evening worship sessions. All in English!

Here's the kicker—we've got some brothers and sisters from the USA joining us. They're not just here to lead workshops; they're here to make friends and connect with the Brazilians. It's a cultural and spiritual exchange program.

The important part? It's all about learning and spreading the gospel. Young people get to grow, connect, and have a good time while hanging out with people from different parts of the world.

This year, we had a faithful group from Harbor Church, Michigan, with us. Jared Heddens led a group of people who were eager to share their love for God through worship, workshops, and relationships. See the pictures below for more interesting details.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kjilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.



Story from the mission field

Meet Luigi Lopez, a bass player who served with the Harbor Church's group. Here's what he's got to say about his trip:

"Generation Z is no joke, we're craving the real deal. We're done with the fake stuff and the whole party, drugs, and booze scene. I used to be caught up in that, too, but then something amazing happened. Jesus got a hold of me, and he's been transforming me for the better. Little did I know, he had the same plan for Manaus, especially at English camp.

One night, after a day of camp fun, I just went to hang out with my Brazilian buddies. Out of the blue, they hit me with, 'Luigi, how do you connect with God?' That led to an awesome talk about what it really means to have a relationship with God, not just going to church on Sundays and calling it a day.

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.

As we chatted, we didn't care about the time or tomorrow's worries. There were 12 of us in that room, and we started around midnight. When we finally checked the clock, it was 5:30 a.m.!

The cool thing is, when we share our stories about Jesus, it's like planting seeds of hope. What he did in me, breaking addiction chains and tearing down religious walls, he did in those 11 other guys.

On the last day, the boys invited me to play "Pebol" (it's slang for Soccer in Portuguese). While we waited for pizza, I popped a question: 'If you could experience a miracle, what would it be?' They had some epic answers like 'my company growing,' 'no more hunger,' 'my family coming to Christ,' and then Nathan (the guy in the white shirt in the pic to the right) said, 'I've had this shoulder pain since January; I want it gone.'



I asked if he believed God could heal him right then. He said yes, so we prayed, everyone watched, and guess what? Nathan's shoulder got healed. No more pain, and he even showed off by doing some push-ups (he beat me haha).

All this wasn't about me; it was all God's power and mercy on display. We've got to give the glory to him alone for that!

I've stayed in touch with those guys since the camp, and I plan to go back next year. But in the meantime, 2 Brazilian leaders, Diogo and Zacarias, are taking care of those boys and helping them on their Christian journey.

If you want to be part of this incredible journey, join us in prayer. Pray for those young men (Pacheco, Nicolas, Michel, Nathan, Lucter, Wallace, Valcacio), Diogo, and Zacarias. They're closer to them than we are."

Clean Water Project

IPManaus has just entered into an exciting new partnership with The Bucket Ministry & RCA, launching the transformative "[Clean Water Project](https://www.rca.org/give/brazil-ipm-clean-water-project/)." (https://www.rca.org/give/brazil-ipm-clean-water-project/)

In the villages nestled around the Amazon Basin, one of the most pressing needs is access to safe, clean water. A significant portion of the population lacks this basic necessity, relying on water directly from the river for their daily needs. This unfortunate circumstance leads to health issues and perpetuates poverty in these communities.

The Clean Water Project is set to make a significant impact by providing a water filter to each family. This simple yet invaluable tool promises to deliver safe water, improving the quality of life for these families.

But the project goes beyond mere provision. Following the distribution of filters, the project's overseer, Pastor Flávio Seleguim, will engage in ongoing follow-up with each family. This isn't just about ensuring the proper use of filters; it's a genuine opportunity to build connections with these families and, ultimately, share the gospel. In areas where gospel outreach can be met with resistance, this filter becomes a welcomed entry point, bridging the gap and opening doors to evangelize and uplift these communities.

You'll hear more about this project in the future. But just send me a message if you'd like to hear more details right now!

Below, you get to see the training for the use of the filters.

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.



2023 Missions Conference

IPManaus enthusiastically hosts annually a Missionary Conference where our passion for missions takes the stage. The event serves as a rallying cry, inviting all our brothers and sisters to serve in missions.

During the conference, the church appointed dedicated mission pastors to conduct workshops and training sessions (this year, we had Pastor Josh Laxton from Northland; and Pastor Gus Davies & Matthew Shilles, mission coordinators). Their wisdom and guidance help shape and empower our missionary endeavors. But that's not all—IPManaus also sets up informative booths dedicated to various missions in the Amazon, such as Amazon Outreach, the Missionary Training Center, JMA (Justice & Mercy Amazon), The Perspectives, and Heavenly Missions.



Global Mission and Amazon Outreach shared the same booth to disclose the short-term medical boat missions & evangelism in the riverside areas.

Lay Pastors Annual Gathering

IPM movements are all directed towards a singular purpose: missions. In pursuit of this mission-driven focus, the church gathers Mission Pastors, Lay Pastors, and local missionaries at the mission school. There, they receive training and support, nurturing their growth and empowering them to excel in their respective roles. The ultimate goal is to enhance their skills and to inspire unwavering dedication, encouraging them to persist in the mission field.

The gathering happens annually at the same time as the missions conference when most of the mission workers come from the river to Manaus.



Our Family

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.

Bring the smile back!

Several of you, friends and mission partners, have been closely following Lia's journey fighting facial chronic pain. By the wisdom and guidance of our leadership, Lia is on medical leave and will not be back for the rest of 2023. She had surgery last June-July (two steps) to implant a neurostimulator and manage the pain.

So far, Lia's experiencing 70-80 percent of pain relief. And we celebrate that! It's not complete healing, but it's providing Lia the chance to smile again. If you saw her during the last few years, you could see her smile hidden. But now it's coming back.

As we speak now, we're enjoying time off on vacation (will show pictures later!). And it's just wonderful to share life with Lia and be able to see her enjoying the day.



There's much to be done. But we've come far! We celebrate God's assistance. Ebenezer, our stone of help brought us here.

Prayer

Please, join us in prayer for...

- 1) Lia's ongoing recovery, especially for the next few months when she recovers and prepares to return to the mission field in 2024;
- 2) The mission work this year with evangelism, church planting, missionary training, and medical mission trips;
- 3) The missionary outreach;
- 4) The Missionary Training Center;
- 5) Our friend and Mission's Assistant, Diogo Magalhães.

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 1:2