



## August 2024

### VISITING U.S. FRIENDS

Friends, we bring great news! After a few years, we're coming to Michigan to visit! We'll be hosted by the Folkert family in Zeeland and meeting with mission partners and friends between the first week of October and the first week of December 2024.

We'd be so honored to talk to you! If it fits your schedule, we would love to meet you, your missions' board, or the church to share stories from the mission field. God has been doing amazing things through this partnership in the Amazon. We are grateful for you.

### MISSIONARY PROJECTS

We will take time this fall to visit friends and partners to specifically talk about the missionary projects of the partnership between RCA Global Mission and the Presbyterian Church of Manaus.

There's so much to report. Stories to tell and show the impact of the Kingdom of God coming to the Amazon riverside villages and indigenous tribes.

If you are curious, here's some brief information about the projects.

### MEDICAL BOAT

RCA Global Mission, through your support, has helped IPM in the medical ministry boat by supporting medical personnel to provide free assistance at the river banks. We can tell you everything about the numbers at our visit, but I will tell you one thing now:

The medical boat is essential in the church planting strategy of the Presbyterian Church of Manaus. Like the plow in the hands of the farmer, the medical boat serves to prepare hearts to receive the seed of the gospel. But we see God doing so much more than what we plan or desire. We see lives being blessed on two continents. The lives of those who come to serve, Americans and Brazilians, are impacted by God's works in the mission field. The church is alive and vibrant when she actively joins God's mission in the world.

And if you're asking yourself now: non-medical personnel are welcomed and invited to be a part of the medical boat ministry. Medicines and medical care are just instruments to give the greater gift, Jesus Christ. We would



*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto:kgilmore@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.*

love to have you join us to evangelize to kids, men, and women, at one of the short-term mission trips to IPManaus mission field.

### **MISSIONARY SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Missionary Training Center is also at the core of IPManaus's strategy to plant churches in the Amazon. As we go on the mission field and churches are planted, we see the need for new leaders. The mission school is a place to equip new leaders with theological and practical knowledge to be used in the mission field.

IPManaus senior pastor Francisco Chaves decided that all the new church planters should go first to the Missionary Training Center before being sent to the mission field.

The school offers a two-year, in-residence program. Students come to Manaus and live at the school facilities. They take weekly modules during the week and serve on a church plant outside Manaus during the weekends, following the teaching-action methodology of the school.

Your support has provided newly equipped leaders to the mission field of the Amazon through the last years. People who know the ways of the river and forest now have the theological knowledge to advance the Kingdom deeper in the Amazon!

### **UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**

Your support is also providing means to bring a contextualized proclamation of the gospel to the unreached people of the Amazon. The last research of the Frontiers Project affirmed that there are 50+ different indigenous people groups in the Amazon with no local missionary presence. This partnership is helping to advance the preaching of Jesus Christ to new people groups, with Bible translation, outreach trips, and training.

### **CLEAN WATER PROJECT**

IPM and RCA Global Mission recently signed a contract with The Bucket Ministry to provide clean water to riverside communities in the Amazon. That might sound odd since water seems not to be a problem here. But Thiago and Lia have seen with their own eyes the reality of people who live deep in the river banks of the Amazon. The only water access they have is the river itself. No water treatment, no wells in most villages, and no public service.

Thiago met people in villages where the most done by the State was to provide a water pump to draw water from the river. If not enough votes, not enough care. The river waters are fresh but not clean. And people face long-term health issues drinking that type of water—from worms to various infections.

The Clean Water Project is an evangelism and discipleship tool that uses clean water filters as a means of proclamation and access. The filters are donated to every family in the village, and people agree to receive two follow-up visits to assess their health condition and teach them how to clean the filter. IPM will use the filter to expand their mission field, evangelize, disciple, and impact the Amazon for God's Kingdom.

### **MISSION TRIPS**

During the summer, we had over 20 trips to regions where IPManaus has campuses or church plants. We had the opportunity to meet with missionaries and see old friends, learn and teach, see patients, and provide medicines and spiritual healing. We went to forgotten communities, neglected by the government, and showed them, by God's grace, THAT THEY ARE LOVED. There was salvation, healing, and restoration—for the communities and for those who came to serve our people.

One mission team donated 400+ food packs. When we were giving a food pack to a particular lady, she said: "How did you know that we didn't have anything to eat today?" For sure we did not, God knew. He dresses and

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takes care of flowers on the field, and the Bible tells us that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

This was a special summer. Lia was able to serve on several mission trips, as she experienced partial relief from her chronic pain. Thiago was so blessed to join 12 missions this year, because of the God-given blessing of Starlink wifi. He could do admin work, participate in the fieldwork, and have personal connections with teams and local missionaries—all of that in the best office ever, the Amazon River.



### UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

The work has progressed, and the challenges are many, especially the distance between the city, which we use as a base, and the tribes. But many Indigenous people are interested in learning about the son of *Tupana*(God), Jesus (*Yesu*). Brother Jacó Jessé has been working tirelessly to train and send the indigenous people to the tribes until everyone hears about the love of Jesus.

The federal Indigenous agency persecutes the church, but it is the indigenous people themselves who come to us. A true miracle. No one can stop the Lord!

### MISSIONARY TRAINING CENTER

This year has been remarkable for the Missionary Training Center (CTM). We've witnessed significant changes and powerful testimonies of personal and spiritual growth. Daily life together has taught us to deal with differences and to practice humility and forgiveness, which are essential for community life and leadership. The practice of confessing sins and asking for forgiveness, though challenging, has proven to be a significant step towards reconciliation and strengthening the bonds among the students.



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We have Indigenous students from the Nhamundá River, from the Hixcarianas ethnicity, who shared their experiences at CTM. They came to learn the word of God to take back to their villages and preach the gospel. Despite language difficulties, they have been dedicated to their studies and have shown great effort and determination. The group has been a true blessing to all of us.

### A Student Journey

One student felt the need to return to her community to resolve issues and ask for forgiveness from her family. This desire arose during devotional moments at CTM, where we seek the Lord's guidance and address personal and community issues. We witnessed how God's power worked in her heart, restoring relationships and strengthening fellowship.



### Family Growth

Lauro and Patrícia graduated from CTM and are now serving as local missionaries at the school. They share how CTM was a turning point in their lives. Being here for two years brought significant maturity in character and attitudes, positively impacting their marital relationship and children's education. The personal effort combined with God's sovereignty has produced lasting fruit.

CTM continues to be a powerful instrument in God's hands to transform lives and equip missionaries. We thank everyone who is part of this journey and hope to continue growing together, always seeking the Lord's will.



### OUR FAMILY

In July, we celebrated our 10th anniversary of marriage on a mission trip, God has been so good! And we cannot wait to see what he has in storage for us for the next years.

### PRAYER

Please join us in praying:

- 1) For partners with a missionary vision to evangelize and disciple the Amazon;
- 2) For Thiago and Lia's upcoming trip to visit friends and partners in the fall of 2024. We will also be attending [Mission 2025 in Orlando](#), Florida, in January with RCA Global Mission.
- 3) For Lia's ongoing health recovery.

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