

Stories of the Mission Field

#2 - The gift of redemption



"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13

The Lake of Carará, situated on the Uatumã River, has been a mission field for many years, thanks to the pioneering work of Wanderley and Erika. Among the villagers of this community was a man named Zerias, known for his struggles with alcoholism and his deep hostility toward Christians. Zerias frequently persecuted the missionary couple, often while drunk, attempting to intimidate them — especially at night, when he would try to scare them. Yet, in the midst of this opposition, God was at work, creating an opportunity for Zerias to hear the gospel and the message of salvation.

Over time, the Lord began to move in Zerias' heart, convicting him of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He experienced profound repentance, surrendered his life to Christ, and sought baptism. Zerias started attending church regularly, participating in Sunday Bible School, and immersing himself in missionary activities. Before long, he joined the missionaries on their boat trips, offering his assistance wherever it was needed. Today,

Zerías serves as the lead missionary at the church in the Carará lake. He is a man transformed by Christ, wholly devoted to God, and a faithful servant who loves the Lord with all his heart.

Through his redemption, Zerías received a gift beyond anything he could have imagined: the privilege of being called a child of God. His life transformation stands as a powerful testimony to God's grace and redemptive power. The Lord gave him a new beginning, marked by service, respect, and love. Now, Zerías is a respected figure in his community, embodying the hope and change that come through surrendering to Christ. His story is a living example of God's ability to bring beauty from ashes, and his life is a blessing to everyone around him.

As we celebrate Christmas and initiate a new year, we are reminded of the greatness of God's love and hope. The birth of Jesus Christ is the ultimate gift, reconciling us with the Father through the power of the Spirit, granting us the incredible privilege of being called His children. Through Christ, we are offered a new life, full of hope and purpose. Let this season renew our faith in God's transformative power, reminding us that with Him, the lost is found, and the drunk one becomes a missionary.

May the grace of God fill your hearts with faith, hope, and love this season and always. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lia and Thiago Dantas