

LoveWorks Brazil 2016

This May, the Church of the Nazarene in Roraima hosted our Point Loma Nazarene University's LoveWorks team. As leaders of the group (Eric and Alyse), we are writing this report on our time in Northern Brazil. Igor Vale, the pastors of the Roraima congregations, and a few members of the Boa Vista church met us at the airport with overwhelming support and joy. Although our time in the capital was short, Pastor da Silva and his church made us feel at home.

The pastors of the churches we visited were prepared with tasks and programs they wanted us to perform. Our first week in Roraima was spent in Bonfim with Pastor Anderson. It was fun participating with the multiple ministries Pastor Anderson runs. We dressed up as clowns and went to the elementary school in Bonfim. Pastor Anderson took us to the indigenous tribes where Pastor is starting congregations. We sang, danced, played sports with the children and served a hotdog dinner. One day we held vacation bible school. There were crafts, games, a sermon, and dinner for the children. Our team participated in church services both in Bonfim and the indigenous tribe.

After our time in Bonfim, Igor took our team to Caracarai. Igor's wife, Val, joined us for the remainder of our trip and she was a wonderful addition to our team. Pastor Handell, Nathaly, Joe, and Law were wonderful hosts. In Caracarai, we took part in ImpactoNazareno. Pastor took us to present in school assemblies across the city. In the assemblies Pastor Handell led a couple worship songs with the students and introduced the program. Our team sang songs in English and we performed the Lifehouse "Everything" drama. Pastor Igor would then preach to the students and we would have an altar call in which many students responded. Praying over those students was such a blessing. It has been amazing to see how receptive the people are to the message of Jesus, even in public schools. In addition to school assemblies, ImpactoNazareno had our team participate in community outreach. We walked around the surrounding communities inviting neighbors to church services and vacation bible schools. Our hosts estimate we ministered to 600 people/students and 400 of them responded to the altar calls to let Jesus into their lives. Praise God! Mid-week our hosts had a late night worship session with us in their home. It was amazing to hear songs sung in both Portuguese and English. The clouds rolled in and rain poured down as lightning and thunder crashed in the sky. It was God joining us in that time of worship with all his strength and might. Yet, at the same time, meeting each of us individually and personally at the same time. On several occasions our host drove us to different areas in the community where local kids were playing soccer or volleyball and would play with them. One day that even included a swim in a branch of the Amazon River. Caracarai Church of the Nazarene has wonderful leadership in Pastor Handell and Nataly.

In our last week, the team spent time working with Pastor Andre at the Rorainopolis church. He took us to The plaza where locals hang out to play sports in the evenings. Even though it was late on a weeknight, the plaza was full of life. On Tuesday, Pastor Andre took us to a small village 40 minutes outside the city where he hopes to start a church service in the future. We went into the local elementary school and spent time with the

children singing songs, dancing, and sharing the story of Jonah. Val led some fun dances with the students. We walked around the community inviting neighbors to church services in the city and surrounding areas. On our last night in Rorainópolis, we performed the drama during the church service.

Igor's guidance and translating abilities were valuable to our team. He was organized and always ensured clear communication between us leaders and our host pastors. Each city and church we took part in was filled with such a passion for God. It was amazing to witness and be a part of the ministries of the Church of the Nazarene in Roraima. Each of the members of our team felt God's presence in Roraima and experienced.

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LoveWorks team leader*

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