

## **The Mission**

We will be partnering with Igreja Presbiteriana de Manaus (I.P.M.) - Presbyterian Church of Manaus:  
<http://www.ipmanaus.org/>

Our Brazilian hosts while we are there will be Pastor Djard & his family...check him out on myspace at:  
<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=123396485&MyToken=b9ba20b3-cdc6-4f99-8c77-852e39c3104d>

Also, our Brazil July 2007 Team profile on myspace is (so send a friend request):  
<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=133292749>

I.P.M. provides mission outreach and medical care to the people who live along the Amazon and its tributaries within a 500 km radius of Manaus. The church owns 4 river boats that travel along the river from February to November. Our mission from July 13 – 21, 2007 will focus on medical care for the villagers as well as spiritual support for the medical and pastoral staff who work in the state of Amazonas. Our team will live on a boat and travel to new villages each day. I.P.M. will provide a medical staff (doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists) that will help with clinics, as well as volunteers to help with worship, vacation Bible school, and coordinating donated clothes and supplies as well as provide some village upkeep (i.e. painting and light construction). We will work alongside the Brazilian medical staff and volunteers on the boat.

## **Team Meetings & Gatherings**

***Brazil Team Dinner – Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM*** (optional, but please R.S.V.P.)

### **Picanha Churrascharia**

269 East Palm Avenue, Burbank, CA

### ***Official Team Meetings***

The church requires us to have 4 team meetings and one team service project.

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** from 3-5:30PM at the church in the music/choir room below the sanctuary

**Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** from 3-5:30PM at the church in the music/choir room below the sanctuary

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** from 3-5:30PM at the church in the music/choir room below the sanctuary

**Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 3-5:30PM at the church in the music/choir room below the sanctuary

### ***Team Service Project***

**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** in the morning, location and service partner TBA. Please set aside from the morning until about 2PM this day and we will give you more specifics on the time at a later date.

### ***Unofficial Farewell Team Meeting***

This is a final meeting to deal with team supplies, packing, last minute logistics and praying together.

**Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at my house:**

1274 N. Fairfax Avenue

West Hollywood (just south of Fountain)

## **Team Flights**

The following is our travel itinerary.

### ***LAX to Manaus - Sunday, July 15th***

#### **Copa Airlines Flight 303B**

Leave LAX at 1:53AM – Please arrive Airport at 10:45PM on Saturday, July 14th

Arrive Panama City at 10:46AM

#### **Copa Airlines Flight 141B**

Leave Panama City at 11:30AM

Arrive Manaus at 4:10PM

*Manaus to Panama – Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>*

**Copa Airlines Flight 140B**

Leave Manaus at 5:00PM

Arrive Panama City at 7:32PM

**OVERNIGHT IN PANAMA CITY – Staying at *Country Inn & Suites* right on the Canal in the City**

*Manaus to LAX – Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>*

**Copa Airlines Flight 302B**

Leave Panama City at 7:00PM

Arrive Los Angeles 11:48PM

### **Mission Specifics**

We asked people who have gone on the trip before to answer some basic questions about the trip. Their answers are below.

#### **What kind of medical support are we delivering?**

We deliver basic medical support (nothing surgical) for light treatment, such as rashes, stomach ailments, etc. although the boats have full medical and dental facilities. Elderly are checked for blood pressure and pregnant women and infants also receive the care they need. The boat also has a pharmacy with a wide-range of medicines and vaccines.

#### **What is the current situation of most of the villages regarding their medical needs?**

Many of the people seem very active and healthy. However, they only receive medical treatment around 2 times per year, I believe, and are outside in the Amazon climate everyday. One family was stricken with malaria. This was a special case that Pastor Djard sent a team out separately to treat. I don't remember the cases in the larger villages to be as extreme.

#### **What are the biggest medical concerns in these villages?**

I believe that malaria doesn't strike a lot of the people, as they have developed immunity to it. I would imagine that common occurrences, such as influenza, etc. are more treated.

#### **How many villages do we visit?**

It depends on the schedule for the particular trip, but most Bel Air trips have visited 4-5 villages per trip. If we go up the Rio Negro we may visit more villages, because the villages on the Amazon River take longer to reach.

#### **What kind of village upkeep or light construction will we be doing?**

We didn't build anything from scratch, only painted already standing surfaces. The paint is not very high quality, but it is provided, along with rollers, brushes and rags. We usually were able to finish painting a church or home in one day.

#### **What economic/social factors affect these villages?**

Villagers are extremely poor. They have a house, perhaps a boat and that's about it! They don't have electricity or running water, for the most part, some have limited amounts. Villages are peaceful and community and fellowship plays a large role in their lives. Family life is of course central. Most villagers are fisherman, ranchers or carpenters. Also, many of the villages have "vacationing men" come through that stay for a period of time, impregnate the girls and then leave. You may see several teenagers with several children already.

#### **Are there any other interesting facts regarding these villages or the response to these visits?**

The Brazilians are extremely friendly, loving people. They love to be touched. They love cameras. They love having their pictures taken and then looking back on the viewfinder to see it. they are extremely fun and full of life. I experienced a lot of joy with these people and never felt my safety to be threatened. Pastor Djard and the members of the Presbyterian Church in Manaus are extremely hospitable and wanted to show us incredible hospitality while we were there.

### **Accommodations**

We will stay at some hotel in downtown Manaus before and after our trip on the river. The hotel is modern and a continental breakfast is provided in the mornings. While on the river, we will live in one of the four boats IPM owns. The boats are a traveling home – with shower, bathroom, dining and sleeping amenities.

### **Passports/Visas:**

**Passports:** Please check your passports and be sure that they do not expire during our trip dates: August 5 – 18 OR for 6 mos, after that date!

For those who do have passports, please start the process of getting one now. Here is a link for info:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

**You should apply for your passport IMMEDIATELY.**

**Visas:** We will need to get Visas to enter Brazil. The cost of a visa is \$100 (money order or cashier's check) and is not covered as part of our trip budget through the church. Each of us will need two passport photos to take to the Brazil embassy. I recommend getting your photos at Costco – they do have to be actual passport-type photos, not just photos of you. We will also need copies of our onward/return tickets and yellow fever vaccination certificates (see following section). **I will take care of getting us the Visas for the group, but would like to collect from you your passports, two passport photos, VISA application** (which I will provide), **U.S. Postal money orders for \$100 and yellow fever vaccinations certificates by May 6<sup>th</sup>** (if at all possible). Please have that information ready for me by then.

**Please note:** On your visa application, when it asks about your purpose of your visit, please choose TOURISM, Because we are not long-term missionaries, we are considered “tourists.” The Visa application also asks where you will be staying while in Brazil. Please use the following: Contact: Hotel Leder / Telephone Number: (55 92) 633 1326 / Address: Av. Sete de Stembro, 827, Manaus, Brazil.

### **Register with the State Department**

It is important for safety reasons that we register with our U.S. State Department, which automatically registers our presence with the U.S. Embassy in Brazil. We can easily do that by going online to:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/home.asp>

### **Vaccinations:**

Here are the vaccinations that the CDC recommends to go to Brazil...I have ranked them in order of importance. You should probably start getting these now as some of them require multiple vaccinations. These are optional (except Yellow Fever), but highly recommended...whatever you decide, please be sure to read up on the material on the website, so that you can make an informed decision.

#### ***IMPORTANT:***

**Yellow Fever** (required to get into the country and VISA – you must keep your certificate of vaccination)

**Hepatitis A** (Get Hep & B combo - only if your insurance covers it)

**Typhoid** (can take in pill form or vaccination)

#### ***FAIRLY IMPORTANT:***

**Tetanus-diphtheria**

#### ***OPTIONAL:***

**Measles/mumps/rubella booster (also known as MMR)**

**Polio booster**

And I highly recommend getting a **Flu shot**

For more info on vaccinations and health stuff, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/vaccinat.htm>

If your insurance does not cover shots and they are not cheaper with your own personal doctor, here are two places to get vaccinations:

**George Gluz M.D.** (contact Frances)

(310) 247-0129 office

*Tell Frances that you were referred by Drew Kratz and are part of the Bel Air Presbyterian Mission teams*

**Office Visit Charges:**

\$25 per visit (one time fee)

**Vaccinations:**

Yellow Fever \$100

Hepatis A -- \$85 per vaccination – must get a series of 2 shots

Hepatis B -- \$58 per vaccination – must get a series of 3 shots

Typhoid (oral tablets) -- \$48

Tetanus-diphtheria -- \$28.75

Measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) -- \$69

Polio booster -- \$28

Meningitis -- \$135

Flu Shots -- \$25

Pneumonia -- \$40

**Passport Health:**

Phone: (323) 297-0700

E-mail: [info@passporthealthla.com](mailto:info@passporthealthla.com)

<http://www.passporthealthla.com/index.htm>

**Office Visit Charges:**

\$45 1<sup>st</sup> Visit per person

\$15 for every visit after that

**Vaccinations:**

Yellow Fever \$90

Hepatis A -- \$75 per vaccination – must get a series of 2 shots

Hepatis A & B -- \$145 per vaccination – must get a series of 3 shots

Typhoid -- \$65

Tetanus-diphtheria -- \$40

Measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) -- \$75

Polio booster -- \$45

Meningitis -- \$115

Flu Shots -- \$25

**Medications:****Not OPTIONAL**

**Malaria medication.** There are a few different options when it comes to Malaria medication. **Malarone** is most typical and is perhaps the most affordable. The area we will be traveling to is in a malaria region, so you will need malaria medication beginning from two days before you leave to go to and for 7 days after you leave the region. If this is not covered by your insurance, the cheapest place to get this is Costco. You will need a prescription from your doctor or from Passport Health (or another vaccination agency)

**Totally OPTIONAL**

**Cipro:** Ask your doctor about getting a small supply of Cipro, which is a strong anti-biotic for intestinal stuff. (If you don't have health insurance, don't bother getting this, if those of us with insurance get it, our whole team should be covered).

**Ambien:** If you have trouble sleeping on planes or adapted to a new time zone, you might ask your doctor for this sleeping pill. (Just to clarify, that is my advice ☺, not from the church ☺).

**Tamiflu:** In case of flu.

**Dramamine:** If you get motion sickness.

**Allergy medicines:** If you need it.

It's also a good idea to bring Advil, Aspirin, diarrhea or stomach medications, etc. **AND lots of hand sanitizer.**

**Currency**

Exchanging currency in Brazil is fairly easy. For the best exchange rates, take a debit card and take out money in Brazilian ATMs. This way, you will only be carrying money while in Brazil. You will want to carry Reals for

meals and souvenirs. You should not count on being able to use a credit card in most places around Brazil to pay for things. We will not have access to exchange currency once we're on the boat. See below on what to expect for spending.

The current exchange rate is:

\$1 USA = \$2.15 Brazil Reals (approx.)

### **Cell Phones & Computer/Internet Access**

Talk to your cell phone service provider as they may be able to set you up to make international calls from your cell phone. I suspect we will be able to get cell phone reception throughout Manaus. We may also have some limited computer/internet connection via internet cafes. However, do not expect to have any cell reception or computer access while we are on the boat. Marci will collect emails of friends, families and trip donors before we leave to send team updates and journals while we are gone.

### **Miscellaneous**

**Brazil time:** Pacific Standard Time + 4 hrs (noon in L.A. is 4pm in Brazil)

**Brazil electricity** is 110/240 v 60hz. Plugs are 2 o3 point round. If you are planning to bring a video camera charger or other electrical devices, please bring voltage/plug adaptors. They can be purchased at:

<http://traveloasis.com/international-electrical-supplies.html>

<http://www.franzus.com>

<http://www.letravelstore.com>

**Manaus weather information:** <http://www.weatherunderground.com/global/BZ.html>

Expect temperatures to be hot and humid, but bring a coat just in case.

### **The Story of Manaus and Brazil**

Manaus is the capital of Amazonas, a state that is 98% rainforest and is the largest state in Brazil. Manaus is home to 1.4 million people and boomed in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as it provided a majority of the world's rubber. (It actually received streetlights and streetcars before London!) Brazil is a 'melting pot' of nations. The Portuguese were the first to colonize Brazil and subsequently brought African slaves for the sugar and other industries. Salt was also a major export but now consumer goods and agricultural products have mostly revived the state after an economic crisis in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Portuguese – a Catholic nation – also brought priests with them so much of Brazil still is dominated by Catholicism. 91% of the country is Christian (73% being Catholic). In fact, Manaus Presbyterian Church is experiencing some persecution by the Catholics. (Brazil is the largest Catholic country in the world – home to 10% of the world's Catholics)

The country has been a democracy since 1985. There is freedom of religion and separation of Church and state, however, there is still a residual bias to Catholicism in government circles.

Brazil is currently a place the Gospel is exploding in addition to Latin America, Africa and China. Continued spiritual hunger in the midst of economic uncertainty has caused many to seek after God. Evangelicals continue to grow in numbers and influence. Manaus Pres is growing at 8% per year. There are currently 3100 missionaries in Brazil from 41 countries.

The government continues to dodge the painful restructuring and righting of many wrongs of the past. There is endemic corruption, cronyism, injustices of society and discrimination – against the poor, underprivileged children and indigenous tribal peoples.

The Amazon basin, which is larger than the whole of non-Russian Europe, is of global importance because of its oxygen-generating forests and huge biodiversity. It is also spiritually needy. The challenges for outreach are the pioneer settlements springing up along new roads through the forests and the 36,000 yet unchurched river communities accessible only by boat. Church planting is made difficult by the relative poverty, people moving to cities and geographical isolation.

## **Fundraising**

Our team is required to raise \$1,600 through Bel Air Presbyterian Church for the trip. It is important that we begin fundraising immediately. The church will begin paying for portions of the mission trip as early as March and therefore will need to start seeing funds coming in by then. All donations made via Bel Air are tax-deductible.

An important aspect of your preparation for a short-term mission is to recruit a team of people who will commit themselves to stand with you in prayer and financial support. This team may be comprised of family, friends, your church, and others who might be interested in you and the purpose of the mission. Often when people make donations to charities they never get to hear about the outcome of their giving. In this case, your support team will get to hear firsthand how their donation helped and get to live vicariously through you on your overseas adventure. Experience has shown that people are *more than willing* to give under these circumstances. You should also not be shy in asking non-Christians to support your mission efforts.

### **STEP 1: BRAINSTORM A DONORS LIST**

Develop a list of potential sponsors whom you can send your sponsorship letters to. Ask family members and friends for names of their friends and acquaintance that they think might be interested in supporting your mission cause. Bel Air is asking that we email them the list of our potential donors once we have a list put together (if the potential donors attend Bel Air). Email that to Kristen at [Kristen@belairpres.org](mailto:Kristen@belairpres.org)

### **STEP 2: WRITE (Remember that this about PRAYER and financial support!!!)**

You were sent a sample letter via email, feel free to change it how you like. Here are some suggestions of things to include in the letter:

1. Give your letter a specific date.
2. Type your greeting to *a person*—not “Dear Friend.” This is better than handwriting a greeting on a printed letter.
3. Acknowledge your relationship with the reader. What can you say that will help the person identify with you?
4. Bring your reader up to date with what you’re doing.
5. Explain what a short-term mission is, the purpose of the short-term mission, why you have decided to participate and what you hope to accomplish.
6. Explain your need. The purpose of your letter is to give your reader an opportunity to help. Make sure you explain exactly what you need.
7. Then involve your reader by asking him/her for specific action, based on the needs you have shared. This can include challenging him to cover part or all of the cost of the STM, stating the deadline you need the money, sharing benefits to you and to the reader as the need is met.
8. Encourage your donors to consider giving more than once and explain that even if they can only give a little bit, every bit counts....and all donations are tax-deductible.
9. Explain how the sponsorship system works: “Enclosed is a support team envelope or link for online donations. If you choose to support me, please fill out the coupon and return it in the envelope provided along with your check made out to Bel Air Presbyterian Church.”
10. Acknowledge your relationship again with an emphasis on thanks, appreciation, gratitude, partnership and commitment. This ties your opening acknowledgement to your request.
11. Close the letter and sign it.

### **STEP 3: MAIL OR EMAIL YOUR LETTERS**

Letters can be mailed and emailed. If you mail your letters, be sure to include at least one (or more) of the Bel Air Outreach return donation envelopes. You can get the envelopes through the Bel Air Outreach office. You should also affix a label to the inside of the donation envelope identifying the Brazil Mission 2007 and your name. Bel Air is highly encouraging online donations, so you should also include the donation link in your letter. The direct link for fundraising through Bel Air’s website is:

<http://my.serviceu.com/public/openPayments.asp?orgID=1660>

Or go to [www.belairpres.org](http://www.belairpres.org) and click “Online Contributions” → “2007 Mission Trips Contributions”.

Be sure your donors choose the Brazil July 2007 trip as there are several other Brazil trips this year.

Emailed letters work well because your potential donors can forward them on to other people and you can directly add the link for online donations. With so many people from Bel Air going on missions this year, Bel Air folks may be overloaded with support requests, so you should particularly encourage family members to pass along your support request to their friends, co-workers, etc. People who don't even know you may be interested in giving in order to hear about the outcome and know that their money is well spent. Myspace or any other friend/family connecting website, are also great places to fundraise.

#### **STEP 4: CALL OR EMAIL**

You may want to make a "follow-up" phone call or emails to some of your potential sponsors. Here are some reasons why:

1. Most people suffer from "Information Overload." It's easy to ignore or forget. A follow-up phone call or email takes the burden of response off them and puts it on you.
2. You have a lot of money to raise in a short period of time. A follow-up phone call or email will help you get decisions as quickly as possible.
3. Courtesy to your sponsors. Many people will want to help you but won't unless you call or email to answer any questions and to get their decision.

#### **STEP 5: THANK YOU**

Send a thank-you notes as soon as possible once you are notified that a donation has been made. Also, be sure to keep a record of all of your donations (name, address & email). It is also important that you send follow-up letters to your donors after the mission is over. Many of them may be giving for the purpose of finding out how the mission goes and how their money helped. It is also a good idea to send out messages or postcards to donors while you are in the country, if at all possible, while your experience is still fresh in your mind. Be sure to bring family, friends and donor addresses with you when you travel.

#### **BELOW ARE TWO SAMPLE LETTERS:**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Guess what!!!? I'm going to Manuas, Brazil. I will be part of a small group involved in a short-term mission. We plan on leaving on July 13 and returning July 21. The purpose of the trip is to take a boat up the Amazon (or Rio Negro) Rivers to deliver medical support, village upkeep and the gospel to the villages on the upper Amazon.

I am writing you in the hope that you might partner with me in this project. Let me first ask that you be a prayer partner with me as I prepare and while we are in Brazil. As always with mission's projects, there is a cost involved and I am looking for those who are willing to help with the cost as well. I am responsible to raise \$1,600 to cover the costs of transportation, food, lodging and administrative costs for the trip. Will you please prayerfully consider if God would have you join with me? Tax-deductible donations are payable to Bel Air Presbyterian Church.

You can easily make donations to the trip online, by visiting:

[www.belairpres.org](http://www.belairpres.org)

Click on "online contributions" on the left side and then click/choose 2007 Mission Contributions. Please be sure to choose Brazil 2007 mission and put my name in the appropriate place. If you choose to mail a check, please write in the memo portion that the check is for the: Brazil July 2007 trip and add a note in the envelope that the donation is for me, but please do not right my name on the check. The address for mailing is below.

Or the direct link is:

<http://my.serviceu.com/public/openPayments.asp?orgID=1660>

And follow the same instructions.

Please pray for: God's will for this short-term mission project, the lives of the team and the people we impact. May God bless you richly through the power of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,

The address to send donations and prayer support is to:

Bel Air Presbyterian Church

Attn: Global Outreach/Brazil JULY 2007 Trip for (your name goes here)

16221 Mulholland Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90049

Hello \_\_\_\_\_,

Greetings to those of you I know and to those I do not know, but in whose hands God has placed this letter. Thank you for taking time to read about my upcoming mission trip to Manaus, Brazil. I am excited to report that on July 13th, 2007 I will be traveling to Brazil with a mission team from Bel Air Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, California, in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Manaus (I.P.M.). This is an extremely important trip.

I.P.M. provides medical care and mission outreach operations to people in villages along the Amazon River and its tributaries. This outreach extends as far as 500km outside of Manaus. I.P.M. currently owns 4 riverboats that travel continuously from February to November providing this aid. Our group will be assisting with distributing medical care and providing spiritual support to these communities. While there, our team will live on board these riverboats as we travel to new villages each day. We will be accompanying a team of doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists designed to help facilitate medical clinics. Once at the villages we will coordinate worship services, donated clothes distributions and general village upkeep, including painting and light construction.

These missions are especially important to this part of the world. Manaus is the capital of Amazonas, a state in Brazil that is made up of 98% rainforest. Unfortunately, for all its natural beauty and wonderment, this is an area of abject poverty. There is a governmental culture of corruption and social injustices, including discrimination against the poor, underprivileged children and indigenous tribes. The Brazilian government continues to avoid vital community restructuring projects.

These tribes are also ostracized due to location. Currently, there are approximately 36,000 river communities accessible only by boat! Many of these communities also lack churches and places of worship. The good news is that many of these poor villages are hungry for and very receptive to developing spiritual communities.

While writing this letter, I am reminded of how blessed I am to be living in our wonderful country of America. It is in the spirit of this appreciation that I look forward to sharing my blessings and gifts within this mission trip. Likewise, the team that has been assembled from Bel Air is one of great spiritual joy and enthusiasm. This is a mission sponsored in love.

I ask in this spirit of love, recognition, and appreciation that you support me in one or both of the following ways:

1. By holding our team in prayer that we will have a powerful impact on the lives of the Brazilians that we meet. Pray that we will share in community with our brothers and sisters there in a way that will bring joy, health and God's love into their lives.
2. By contributing financial support to our mission. The travel costs of each mission member are approximately \$1900. This amount covers travel, housing, food, supplies and miscellaneous expenses and vaccinations. I am seeking to raise this full amount in tax deductible donations. While some people can make a lump sum contribution, others of you may choose to make a series of contributions. Either is fine and appreciated.

**Tax-deductible** donations can be mailed (see address below) and should be made out to **Bel Air Presbyterian Church**. Please be sure not to write my name on the check or the memo.

You can also make donations easily online, by visiting [www.belairpres.org](http://www.belairpres.org). Click on "online contributions" on the left side and then click on 2007 Mission Contributions. Please be sure to choose the "**Brazil July**" trip and put my name in the appropriate place.

The direct link is: [www.myserviceu.com/public/openPayments.asp?orgID=1660](http://www.myserviceu.com/public/openPayments.asp?orgID=1660)

I want to thank you so much for your generosity, prayers and support. I know that when donating to charity it is both important to know where your donations are going and very satisfying to see the results of your generosity. For those of you making financial contributions, I will be sending to you a correspondence summary of the mission trip and what we experience and achieved. Thank you once again for taking the time to read about this mission.

With love and blessings,

(Your name)

Please mail checks to:  
Bel Air Presbyterian Church  
Attn: Global Outreach  
Brazil July 2007 for (Your name goes here)  
16221 Mulholland Drive  
Los Angeles CA 90049