



Photography by Nick Elliott

Isn't United Methodist Volunteers In Mission a wonderful blessing from God? Think for a moment how many lives have been touched and changed because a group of God's people desire to serve the Kingdom of Christ with their talent or skill. Also, think of the spread of United Methodist Volunteers In Mission in the last few years. Just in the Southeastern Jurisdiction we have seen our numbers grow at an amazing rate.

However, we must not forget that there are other countries that have volunteers desiring to be of equal service. Recently I had the opportunity to be a keynote speaker at the Rio, Brazil Methodist Mission Conference. According to Dr. Wilson Bonfim, the conference director of missions this was the first mission conference ever held in Rio's Conference. Brazil, and especially the Rio conference, wants to start a Volunteers In Mission program.

Dr. Bonfim and his staff are wasting no time in getting started. They desire to send teams within Brazil and to other countries. For many years Dr. Bonfim has been involved in Evangemed, a medical mission endeavor to the far reaches of the country. At first, this was done with the use of a mobile clinic. A mudslide ruined the mobile clinic several years ago while Dr. Bonfim was at our Rally at Lake Junaluska. God still has a way and made it possible for Dr. Bonfim to use a large medical boat to serve villages

along the Amazon River. He has a heart for missions as almost as large as the Evangemed boat (And that is huge). Foreign missions are also high on the agenda; Mozambique will probably be the site of the first foreign Brazil Volunteers In Missions project.

Bishop Paula Lockmann has given his full support to the new Brazil Volunteers In Mission program, which really isn't all that surprising. Bishop Lockmann has a great goal for his conference double the and succeed. Over lunch one day, I had the opportunity to find out more about Rio's Bishop. He was converted under the tutelage of missionary Rev. Will Rogers, Sr. from South Carolina. The Bishop is so obviously committed, that one of his daughters married a minister and they are serving as missionaries in the Northeast Conference. Like parents, like children. The Methodist Church of Brazil will be fulfilling the commission of mission through a program similar to ours. God Bless the Methodist Church of Brazil

I am thankful of UMVIM's influence in my life and I believe service in the Kingdom of Christ is the most exciting life-changing experience available. Have you tried it?

In Christ,

Nick Elliott, Director