



LEITES

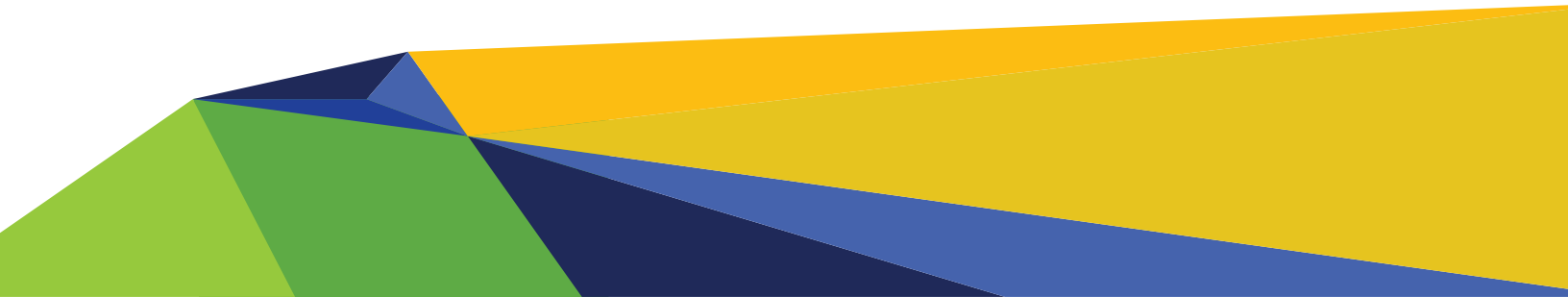
Mission Plan – Brazil 2023



WHO ARE WE?

I, Lucas, was born in 1985 in São Paulo, Brazil. I was raised by faithful Christian parents who, from an early age, taught me about my sin and need for Jesus. When I was six years old, by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, I confessed Jesus to be my Lord and Savior, being later baptized at the age of eight. A decade later, I was headed to a successful career in law practice, working for an important firm in São Paulo. Although I continued to affirm my faith, I was focused on my professional accomplishments instead of seeing my life opportunities as means to serve the kingdom of God. Eventually, God convicted me of my self-centered lifestyle and sparked in me the desire to reorient my whole life around the call to minister his Word to others. God providentially brought that same desire to Bella, a girl I have met at a Word of Life summer camp and who later became my wife. Together, we committed to a life devoted to ministering God's word, no matter where he would place us.

We have now been married for ten years, having lived eight of these years in the United States. We first came from Brazil in 2013, arriving in Lafayette, Indiana, to pursue an M.Div. at Faith Bible Seminary. Eight years later, I am close to completing my Ph.D. studies in biblical counseling and systematic theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. During this time, our family added three little ones: Ana Luisa, Sophie, and Timothy. Upon completing my degree, we desire to return to Brazil and serve in the education of pastors, counselors, and missionaries.



OUR MISSION

Our mission — and passion! — is:

- ▶ To train ministers to do the work of biblical counseling and soul care, equipping them to bring the reality of the good news of Christ to the lives of individuals who are struggling with suffering and sin.
- ▶ To prepare pastors to equip the members of their local churches so that they would grow in competency and intentionality in ministering to one another.

OUR VALUES

1. Christian Faith (i.e., the gospel) — the whole gospel for the whole life
2. Church — particular focus on local churches
3. Care — individual and family gospel care through biblical counseling
4. Christ — all for Christ's glory!

OUR VISION

Upon completing my degree (planned for the Fall of 2022), we desire to return to Brazil and serve in the education of young pastors and missionaries. More specifically, our vision is to fulfill our mission at Palavra da Vida (Word of Life) Bible Seminary in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, teaching biblical counseling courses and discipling and counseling students.

HIM WE PROCLAIM,

WARNING EVERYONE AND

TEACHING EVERYONE WITH

ALL WISDOM, THAT WE MAY

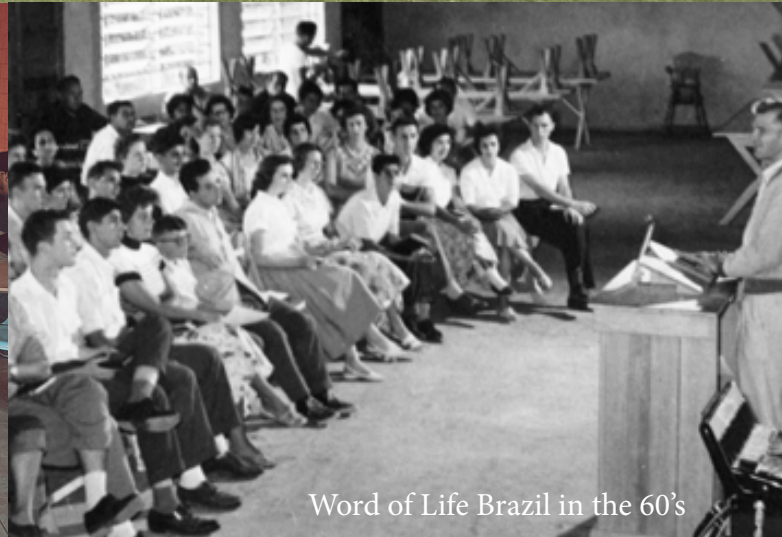
PRESENT EVERYONE

MATURE IN CHRIST.

COLOSSIANS 1:28



Masters in Biblical Counseling class



Word of Life Brazil in the 60's



THE OPPORTUNITY

We believe in God's wise and good providence and that our vocation is to fulfill a ministry that is not ours but his. For years, we prayed God would lead and place us where he wants us to serve him. Recently, Lucas was invited to teach biblical counseling at Palavra da Vida Bible Seminary and lead their biblical counseling department. Palavra da Vida Bible Seminary has been, for five decades, a leading conservative evangelical school in Brazil. Since its foundation, they have trained over 3,000 pastors and missionaries who are now serving churches in all 26 states of Brazil and 35 different countries. Around 100 new students have been added every year to this statistic during the past decade.

Committed to the authority and inerrancy of Scripture, Palavra da Vida Bible Seminary served as the entry door for the biblical counseling movement in Brazil in the 1990s. They translated and published many articles from the Journal of Biblical Counseling and organized the first biblical counseling conferences in Brazil in the 2000s, with many renowned speakers, such as Paul Tripp, David Powlison, and Steve Viars.

“Theology for life and ministry.” This motto summarizes the philosophy of education adopted at Palavra da Vida Bible Seminary. The training and equipping of their students focus on these three areas:

academics, life and ministry

All students live on campus — around 200 of them at a time. There, they take classes and participate in shepherding groups and live life together, maximizing opportunities for one another edification and interactions with faculty. On the weekends, students leave the campus to serve their respective churches.



WHAT WILL MINISTRY LOOK LIKE?

TEACHING

- ▶ Teaching seminary courses on biblical counseling
- ▶ Training seminary faculty and staff to do biblical counseling
- ▶ Teaching biblical counseling at training conferences and various churches (in partnership with the Association of Brazilian Biblical Counselors — “ABCB”)
- ▶ Teaching biblical counseling modules in other seminaries around Brazil

DISCIPLESHIP

- ▶ Leading seminary shepherding groups
- ▶ Discipling individual students and fellow church members



COUNSELING

- ▶ Counseling seminary students
- ▶ Counseling in a local church
- ▶ Providing the opportunity for trainee observation

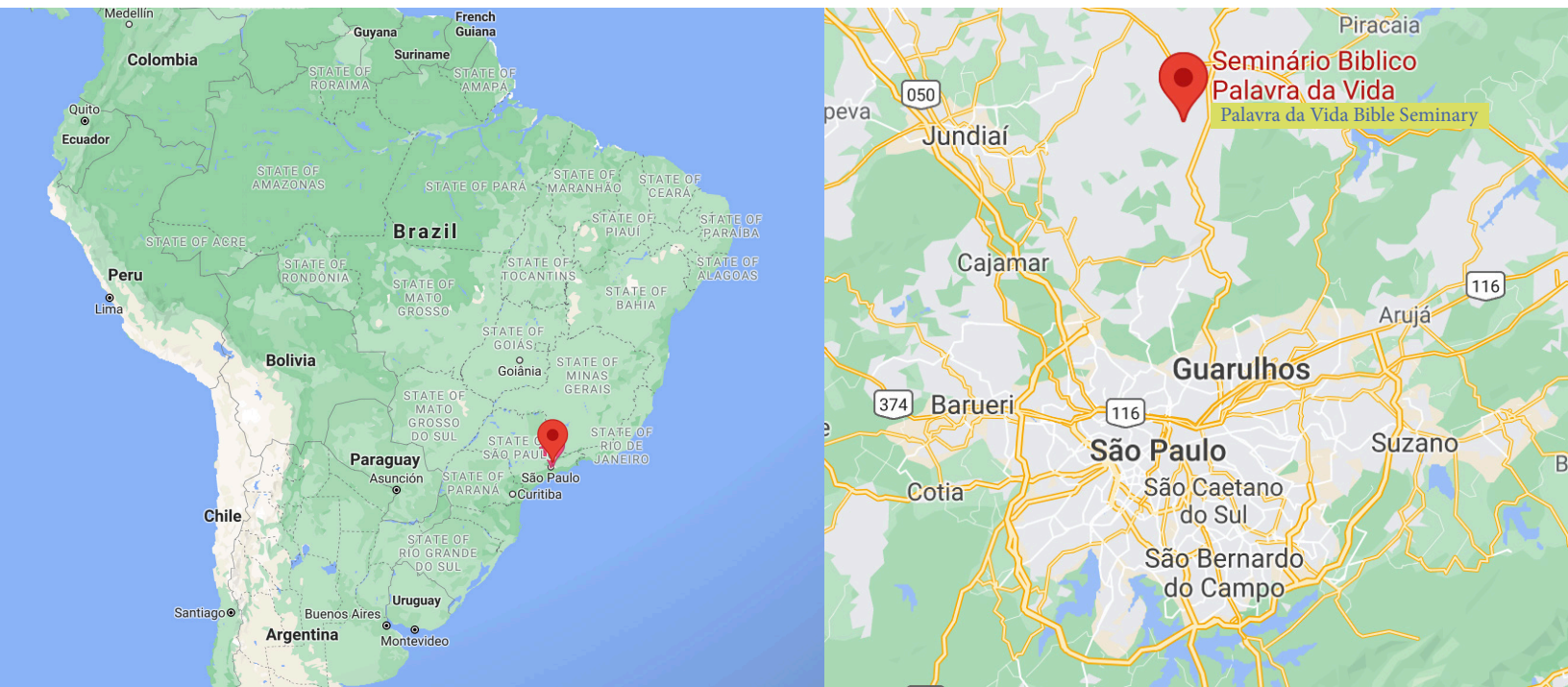
WRITING

- ▶ Writing books, articles, and blog posts on subjects related to biblical counseling

SERVING THE LOCAL CHURCH

- ▶ Helping to structure biblical counseling ministries
- ▶ Preaching and teaching when invited

THE STRATEGIC LOCATION



Palavra da Vida Bible Seminary is located in Atibaia, an hour away from São Paulo city, in the state of São Paulo, southeast Brazil. This is the most populous state of Brazil, with 46 million inhabitants — around 36 million only in the metropolitan area of São Paulo city — which accounts for more than 20% of the whole population of Brazil (212 million).



DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHALLENGES

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According to the Brazilian census, the evangelical population exploded in Brazil in the last 30 years, going from 5% to 31% since the 1990s. It sounds like good news, right? But, what is it that is attracting so many to join the “evangelical faith” in Brazil? Unfortunately, it is not the faithful proclamation of the true gospel. The promises of the prosperity gospel speak deeply to the desires of those who are only seeking health and wealth. In most of these new contexts, consideration of sin and the need for self-denial in subjection to Jesus is non-existent.

Other challenges present in the ecclesial context of Brazil are the rising of liberal and liberation theologies and a religious syncretism that permeates all churches and cults in Brazil, not only the so-called evangelical ones. Adding to that, the levels of illiteracy are still very much significant: 7% of Brazil’s population is completely illiterate, while almost 30% is considered functionally illiterate. When people can’t read their Bibles for themselves, they become susceptible to all sorts of deceiving teachings.

In this context, Palavra da Vida Bible Seminary has been educating and training pastors for the faithful exercise of the ministry of God’s Word for more than five decades. Good seminaries produce good pastors and, consequently, good churches. Equipping these pastors to be faithful in the public and private ministries of God’s Word is essential for the healthy growth of the true evangelical church in Brazil.

OUR NEEDS

1. PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

We are looking for churches, families, and individuals willing to support us in prayer and affirm our mission.

2. PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Pray that God would guide our plans, the transitioning process as we move internationally, the funding of this project, and all our family dynamics as we go through all of this together.

3. PARTNERS IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As missionaries to Brazil, we need to raise the necessary funds in order to make this ministry possible in full-time. We believe that God will raise churches, families, and individuals to contribute to this gospel effort in Brazil. So, we ask you to prayerfully consider to partner with us in this way. If so, please let us know and we will be happy to provide more information about how you can help. You can also access the link or scan the QR code provided on the next page.

OUR TIMELINE



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in partnering with us, please contact us. We will be happy to provide further information and answer any questions.

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SCAN ME

