

MISSIONARY QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: Elder Dias Teles

Tell us about yourself:

- 1. Where were you born?** Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- 2. Where did you go to school?** I studied until 7th grade in Porto Alegre, moved to São Paulo for 8th grade, and came back to Porto Alegre for high school.
- 3. What is your spouse's name and for how long are you married?** Elisangela Ulguim da Silva Teles, we've been married for 10 years.
- 4. Where is your spouse from? How did you two meet?** She is here from my neighborhood and we met through my cousin and her sisters who introduced us.
- 5. Do you have children? If yes, how many? What are their ages and interests?** Yes ... We have a son named Eminem Carlos da Silva Teles; he is 9 years old and in the third grade. He is an extremely intelligent child who is very interested in sports, mainly martial arts and soccer. He does Tae Kwon Do in a gym here in our neighborhood, and already has a yellow belt, and 2 medals from tournaments. He is also a great goalkeeper, but currently is not training soccer for any local club.
- 6. Where do you currently live?** We live in Vila Elza neighborhood, Viamão (a suburb of Porto Alegre), in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. We currently live with my parents
- 7. When and how did you become a Christian?** It was in the year 2006 that I sought help at the Youth Recovery Center because of my drug abuse. This is the same Recovery Center that my wife and I today serve as missionaries.
- 8. When did you feel called to the ministry?** It was during a time when I was going through a great difficulty at the job where I was working. I worked as a doorman for a large condominium in Porto Alegre, where I worked for 4 years and 3 months. Until one day the company that administered the condominium pulled a scam on all its employees and clients, suddenly ceasing to exist and declaring bankruptcy, leaving its employees without any type of resource. It was when I received a call from my friend and brother Matthew Rehbein telling me that he had been commenting with Josimar Chaves, also a missionary, on the possibility of my wife and I being part of the missionary work at the Aguas Claras Youth Recovery Center, due to my experience in recovery from drug addiction. I confess that I had never thought of working directly with this, although I already had developed an evangelistic work with young people through RAP music. It was love at first sight. From the beginning we have fallen in love with this work, starting with our part-time ministry and then moving on to full-time coordinators of the Aguas Claras location.

Tell us about your ministry:

1. What is the name of your ministry? Youth Recovery Center – Aguas Claras therapeutic community, located in rural Viamão about an hour outside Porto Alegre.

2. What is the purpose and objective of your ministry? The purpose of our Ministry is to bring people who come to us to know Jesus Christ. The goal is the restoration of the human being, those who come to us completely destroyed by the abuse of drugs and alcohol. We try to bring them back together with their families, in which usually the bonds are broken, sharing a message of overcoming and self-esteem. We try to help them recover their sense of value that they had lost by the abuse of narcotics.

3. How long have you been leading this ministry? In July it will be 3 years that we are serving at YRC Águas Claras.

4. What has been your greatest joy in working in this ministry? Our joys are many! From the beginning of the recovery of the individual, who arrives thin, with torn clothes, dirty, and when we accompany the growth of this same person, we feel an immeasurable joy. When they share with us their progress in the arduous process of treatment, until the time when treatment ends, and we see that they are bearing fruit out in society, when we are invited to participate in their lives, through invitations for dinners, lunches, weddings, we know that we were part of that story... So it is difficult to highlight a special joy ... As I said there are many...

5. What is your greatest difficulty in working in this ministry? There are many more joys and victories than difficulties, but unfortunately there are difficulties, such as: When a brother falls, we feel sad, we feel as if we have failed at some point in the recovery of that person, but we know that it is part of the journey. There is also the difficulty we have with our vehicle, because the route to get to the YRC is extremely bumpy and uneven, it is a 1 hour 20 minute roundtrip. Our car, which is a 1997 Fiat Uno, has suffered a lot. Often it has presented many problems, and since the YRC is far from our residence we cannot go by bus, so when we need to fix the car it leaves us in a difficult situation.

6. Tell us a favorite story / testimony from last year. Well, last year we were very happy, because we were invited for the first time by one of the brothers to be attendants in their wedding ceremony. Brother Felipe Cordeiro Pacheco, whom we received at YRC in 2014, was a great victory for us ... An immense joy!

7. What is the greatest need for prayer at this time? How can we pray for you? I believe that asking God to strengthen us every day, because with good health we can go far, I also ask for prayer so that we can finish building our house, we have been trying for a long time. THANK YOU !!

8. What is your greatest hope for the future of this ministry? My greatest hope is that this work will continue to save lives, just as it saved mine. Let's get more helpers, for the ministry survives on donations. And may God bless that we can continue in the ministry for many years.

9. How long has Fourth Avenue Church partnered with you? For 3 years, Fourth Avenue has provided us with a great joy to show us that we had a vocation to work with people in need that we did not know we had, thanks to you, whom we serve today at the CRJ. We also thank you very much, from the heart, for the sustenance that has come all these years without any lack ... God bless you greatly! Glory to God!