

MISSIONARY QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: Isaias dos Santos

Tell us about yourself:

- 1. Where were you born?** Viamão, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- 2. Where did you go to school?** In Porto Alegre (Isaias also served in the military for a few years; it used to be that Brazilian males were obliged to serve in the military when they turned 18 unless they had an exemption).
- 3. What is your spouse's name and for how long are you married?** Claudia Margarete Marcon dos Santos, we've been married for 18 years.
- 4. Where is your spouse from? How did you two meet?** She is from Alvorada, a neighboring city of Viamão, and we met at the church she attended, I visited there one time and my sister introduced me to her.
- 5. Do you have children? If yes, how many? What are their ages and interests?** We have two children, Evelyn who is 17 years old and Jonathas who is 10 years old. Evelyn is doing her high school program during the mornings and in the afternoons, she's currently taking a course to become a nurse technician.
- 6. Where do you currently live?** We live in Portoverde neighborhood, Alvorada (a suburb of Porto Alegre), in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.
- 7. When and how did you become a Christian?** I've been in church all my life, because both of my parents were pastors.
- 8. When did you feel called to the ministry?** From a very young age I had a deep desire to preach the word of God, but in 2005 I began working with the therapeutic community of the Youth Recovery Center, the ministry that my parents founded, as director of the Jardim Algarve community.

Tell us about your ministry:

1. What is the name of your ministry? Youth Recovery Center

2. What is the purpose and objective of your ministry? Our purpose is to recover young people who are living on drugs lost in a state of social vulnerability.

Our Mission: "Drug users transformed into men useful to God and society".

We can house up to 40 students in two different locations, the main location in Alvorada (25 men) and the community at Aguas Claras (15 men, this is the location where Elder & Elisangela serve as coordinators).

3. How long have you been leading this ministry? 12 years

4. What has been your greatest joy in working in this ministry? I have seen lives reclaimed and families receiving their children, who were once lost in the world of drug abuse, back into their homes with great happiness.

5. What is your greatest difficulty in working in this ministry? Our greatest difficulty is the lack of financial resources and the lack of staff to meet the demands of working with our students.

6. Tell us a favorite story / testimony from last year. Last month, we had a wonderful moment where seven of our students were baptized. We gathered everyone at the Aguas Claras community and invited their families to the baptism. Many of our alumni came to the event as well and it was so good to see how strong they are and how well they are living. We had a big barbecue and celebration; we had dozens and dozens of people there. I can say it was one of those moments that made all of these years of work worthwhile. It was a beautiful day and we saw God's hand at work so clearly.

7. What is the greatest need for prayer at this time? How can we pray for you? Our greatest need is to get partnership to do projects that allow us to become self-supporting, please pray for us as we work in this direction so that God may give grace to be persistent and confident.

8. What is your greatest hope for the future of this ministry? That we can become self-sustaining so that we can recover more young people by giving them a new hope and a purpose for life.

9. How long has Fourth Avenue Church partnered with you? Since 2006, when I first met Matt Rehbein when he was living in Porto Alegre. He began volunteering weekly with us as a counselor and we've been walking together ever since. A moment that I'll always remember was in 2010, when Fourth Avenue Church, Rotary Club Porto Alegre, and the church in Porto Alegre partnered together to dig an artesian well at Aguas Claras so we could re-open that location. Fourth Avenue has provided so much to us over the years, helping us upgrade our facilities so we could meet the local health codes and maintain our operating license. We are so grateful for the ongoing support we receive from you each month that allows us to provide the 45,000+ meals we serve each year to the men in our program.