

MISSIONARY QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: Josimar Chaves da Silva

Tell us about yourself:

- 1. Where were you born?** I am a gaúcho, born in Porto Alegre where I lived most of my life.
- 2. Where did you go to school?** I attended school until my junior year in Porto Alegre and I finished my last year here in São Paulo, where I also started my academic career. I studied Social Work for 3 ½ years, and I did some specializations in the areas of Urban Missions, Integrated Mission, and Chemical Dependency. After finishing my bachelor's degree, I began a Postgraduate Certificate program in Sport Psychology, and a multidisciplinary training in Integrated Mission in Latin America for the past 2 years.
- 3. What is your spouse's name and for how long are you married?** I'm married to Aline Kelly Mota Chaves da Silva since October 2014, and we've been together since July 2012.
- 4. Where is your spouse from?** How did you two meet? My wife is 32 years old, a native of Ceara state in Northeast Brazil, but she has been in São Paulo since the age of 2, where her mother and siblings reside and some uncles and cousins. (Aline worked as a teacher at the inner-city daycare that is run by the mission where Josimar was interning).
- 5. Do you have children? If yes, how many? What are their ages and interests?** My wife already had a daughter from another relationship named, Isadora who is 9 years old. We expect to have another child in the near future.
- 6. Where do you currently live?** Currently living in São Paulo in the neighborhood of Casa Verde in a rented residence.
- 7. When and how did you become a Christian?** My conversion began with the knowledge of God's love at the end of 2007, when I was going through a recovery process at the Youth Recovery Center (CRJ) therapeutic community in Alvorada, where I had a true encounter with God, in which my life completely changed and I was baptized in June of 2008.
- 8. When did you feel called to the ministry?** My call began in 2008 with God using various people and situations to talk to me about dedicating my life to Kingdom expansion. But I chose not to give attention to these signs, and I ended up restarting the recovery process in 2009, where I had a personal experience with GOD. He spoke clearly to me that I was being prepared to walk with him and that he already had a ministry prepared to work with the restoration of people, and for me to trust that he would show me and take me to places I never had imagined. For a few months I kept this to myself and I kept praying about it until God compelled me to share it with someone he had prepared at the right moment. At the end of 2009 God led me to share all of this with my friend and mentor Pr. Gerald Kunde and that through Gerald he would show me what he had prepared for me. In February 2010 Gerald said that he had prayed about this matter and God had sent him to give me a pamphlet about Mission CENA in São Paulo; when I looked and touched that pamphlet I remember as if it were GOD today confirming everything that was still a little confusing in my head. God was telling me that it was in that place that he would use me, but that one day I would return to Porto Alegre.

Tell us about your ministry:

1. What is the name of your ministry? Mission CENA - SP (New Dawn Evangelical Community - São Paulo) is our current ministry. We are in the process of founding Project BASE-RS (Seeking Support and Solutions Through the Gospel – Rio Grande do Sul) and will move from São Paulo to Porto Alegre in fall 2018 to launch this new ministry full-time.

2. What is the purpose and objective of your ministry? Mission CENA works with prevention (preschool, soccer and other sports for children), rescue (ministry to the homeless, prostitutes, transvestites, drug addicts), restoration (therapeutic community for those who want to get off the streets) and reintegration (halfway house where community graduates can live up to two years and receive life coaching while they reestablish themselves with education, work, family, etc.). CENA also has a school of urban mission. Project BASE-RS has the objective of working with 2 strategies: strengthening existing social works through ministry networking, and also creating new works that are necessary to act within the reality and context of my home state, Rio Grande do Sul. BASE-RS is modeled on Mission CENA's fourfold approach and general emphasis on training persons to serve as urban missionaries.

3. How long have you been leading this ministry? At Mission CENA I've worked since 2010, where I have participated in several ministries. I am currently working on two fronts: in social work working with the homeless population and drug addicts in "Crackland" (massive tent city in downtown São Paulo) and at our therapeutic community in a rural location outside the city, and also in the soccer ministry with children here in our downtown facility

4. What has been your greatest joy in working in this ministry? In social work, I can say that it has been able to carry out referrals to our therapeutic, but the main thing is to follow up with these students weekly and we started working with a psychologist who is conducting the sessions weekly. This has made a big difference in the treatment of students and also contributed to their longer stay in the therapeutic community. In soccer, my joy is that today we have a multidisciplinary team with athletic trainers, psychologists, social workers and personal training, school psychologists, and teachers, which have provided us with a better follow-up on and off the court. We started a school psychology monitoring project, a partnership with World Vision and some schools here in downtown São Paulo, which has allowed us to provide better accompaniment of the students as well as expansion of God's Kingdom.

5. What is your greatest difficulty in working in this ministry? I believe that the greatest difficulty here at Mission CENA has been the current moment of reformulation that the institution has gone through, which has greatly hindered interpersonal relationships and has been too disruptive to the development of ministries and the issue of missionary transition. Also, the issue of raising and maintaining personal support.

6. Tell us a favorite story / testimony from last year. In social work, I have a testimony of a boy who we received three years ago in our "Room in the Inn" program with some health problems, without family and nobody to advocate for him. He went to live in our therapeutic community, then to our reintegration house, and in last year, my wife and I received the invitation to be in his wedding. It was an unforgettable moment for all of us who are following the path of our brother, who is married today and working as a caretaker at the Liberty Baptist Church, where my wife and I married. In soccer, it was undoubtedly the experience we are having with a student who we have been working with for 6 years. His mother ended up having serious problems with alcohol and they were eventually expelled from their home. When we went to

talk to her she did not want help at all, but asked us to take care of her son. A couple of missionaries here from soccer adopted him and today he is living with them, he was baptized and he is taking an English course. He got a scholarship to play soccer and to study in the USA as soon as he finishes his high school and passes the English proficiency test. What has changed his life and can also change the life of his whole family and serve as an example for all other children who are part of the soccer ministry is this: to believe that with GOD all is possible.

7. What is the greatest need for prayer at this time? How can we pray for you? For the health of our family, for the transitional issue that we are already living through the ministries that we are involved in both São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul, and for God to lead by bringing together people, churches, and good projects, for better project progress as well as for our livelihood.

8. What is your greatest hope for the future of this ministry? We have great hopes for our future ministry. We believe that GOD has a great plan for Porto Alegre and RS, and we have placed our lives at the disposition of the Kingdom. We hope to take the message of love to the marginalized here in Rio Grande do Sul, through the BASE-RS Project, and the partnerships that GOD has placed in our journey, as well as to continue serving in this year that we still have in São Paulo. We hope to see the churches of Rio Grande do Sul united serving their community and thus signaling the coming of God's kingdom.

9. How long has Fourth Avenue Church partnered with you? My journey with Fourth Avenue Church began as soon as I came to Sao Paulo in the year 2010, first through my relationship with Matt Rehbein and the prayer and intercession of the church. Fourth Avenue has been supporting us financially for 5 years and we have the privilege of walking together to grow the Kingdom of God.