

# IT'S NOT THEM, *it's us*

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# STRATEGY IN SERVING

## JORDAN

Jordan is a country in the Middle East with a unique location, bordering Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Israel, and Palestine. The country ranks 48th on the World Watch List for Religious Persecution. There are Christians in the country; however, “tolerance” towards other religions is granted only to those who were not born Muslim. Muslims who convert to Christianity face persecution and threats from their own families and are pressured to return to Islam. There is a false sense of religious freedom, while churches are controlled by the government, and Christians are prohibited from preaching to Muslims.

Thus, the country, benefiting from its strategic location, supports the implementation of various projects in the Middle East. Among the ongoing projects, we can mention Rahwa Kids.

The project aims to provide

basic and Christian education to Iraqi children and other persecuted children. It welcomes children aged 5 to 15, 5 days a week, with 4 hours of activities each day.

Iraqi children who fled to Jordan due to persecution have no access to education and cannot afford private schools. These persecuted children have no hope for their future, and there is no discussion from the local government about opening the public education system to them.

Currently, this project supports 30 persecuted Iraqi children and is located within a predominantly Christian village that has welcomed over a thousand Iraqi families.

The goal of the project is to encourage and empower Christians by providing Bibles, radio programs, medical assistance, and other forms of help so they can continue spreading the Gospel.



# HAJA PAZ *em* *Israel and Palestina*

“Let there be peace in Israel and Palestine”.

## BRAZILIAN BASE

On October 7th, once again, the conflict between Israel and Palestine made headlines in global media. The extremist Palestinian group Hamas carried out an unexpected terrorist attack near the Gaza Strip, leaving more than 260 people dead. Additionally, several individuals were kidnapped in Israeli territory.

After these events, a war environment was created, resulting in many deaths and injuries in both territories. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ were affected by these bombings and had to flee their homes. Furthermore, numerous churches were targeted and many were destroyed.

In light of this confrontation, we launched a campaign entitled "DONATE FOR THE CHURCH IN THE MIDDLE EAST" to support our brothers and sisters who have been impacted by the conflict.

because of this conflict. An invitation was made for us to come together and support the suffering church in the Middle East.

Our goal is to raise funds so that native pastors can care for and assist our brothers and sisters who are suffering amid the war.

How to participate? Make a donation of any amount and add R\$0.15 (fifteen cents) at the end, so that your donation will be directed to the Church in the Middle East.

PIX: 12.492.298/0001-83 - Mission in Support of the Suffering Church

**LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL AND PALESTINE.**



# CTMAIS: COLLECTING MEMORIES.

## BRAZILIAN BASE

The practical trip is part of the CTMAIS curriculum. The students begin to plan for it at the start of the year when they begin the course. Throughout the first semester of classes, each subject adds knowledge so that students can travel and put into practice everything they have learned.

Many students who come to take the course are experiencing missions for the first time. Some have never participated in activities outside their local church or gone on a cross-cultural trip. Similarly, some students have already been to other mission fields. Thus, a great exchange of knowledge and experiences is provided through the trip.

For ten days, the CT students leave the base and head to Paraguay, to the city of San Lorenzo, to serve the local Presbyterian Church.

The CT 2023 trip began with acclimatization, meaning the first contact with the local community and the opportunity to get to know a little about the city and the church's routine. Later, they began their program with evangelism, a youth service, a vigil, Sunday programming, and other activities.

One of the activities carried out by the students was a VBS (Vacation Bible School), which concluded the CTMAIS 2023 mission work in San Lorenzo. It was a program for about 50 children, with various activities involving recreation and evangelism.

It is difficult to summarize in words everything that happens during the practical mission trips of CT, but the learning and the collection of moments are kept in memory.

Visit the website and learn more about CTMAIS: [www.ctmais.com.br](http://www.ctmais.com.br)





# IMERSÃO 2023

“Immersion 2023”

## BRAZILIAN BASE

Many Christians in Brazil are unaware of the church that suffers persecution. Most of the time, this topic is shocking due to the freedom we have in the country.

But this is a reality that affects over 300 million Christians worldwide, who suffer daily because of their love and devotion to Christ.

Thus, Missão Mais, amidst its various activities, organizes an event called "IMMERSION." An event focused on missionary experience, aiming to raise awareness in the Brazilian church regarding the reality of Christians around the world.

The event takes place at the Base Brasil in Almirante Tamandaré/PR. For a week, young people and adults over 16 years old enjoy a time of fellowship and unique, transformative experiences.

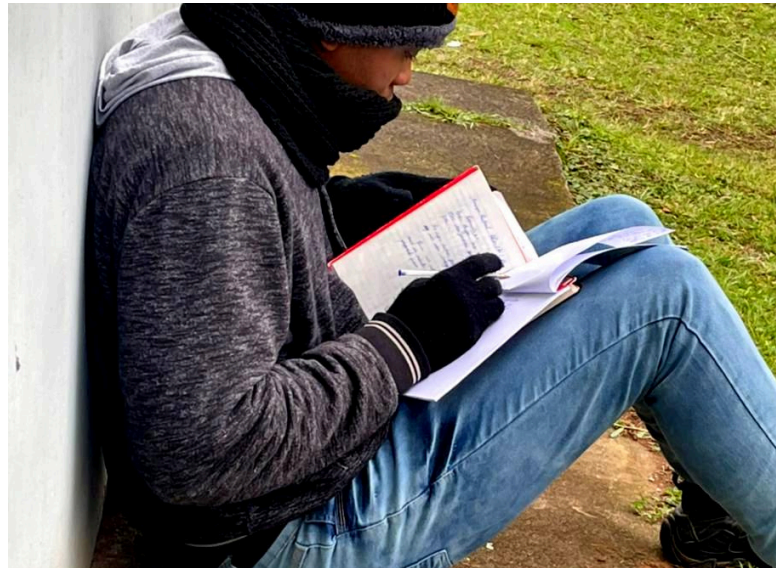
Practical and theoretical classes are offered, along with a cross-cultural experience living with refugees, fellowship with people from different parts of Brazil, among many other challenging and rewarding experiences.

The presence of God is evident as we see broken hearts, people discovering their calling and vocation, others overcoming limits, and accomplishing activities they never imagined they could.

Thus, each person returns home knowing a little more about God's love and remembering to dedicate their lives, in whatever way they can, to the suffering church.

This experience should be lived by every young and adult Christian in our country.

**"If one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it." 1 Cor. 12:25**







Afghan women live in a context of extreme repression, which has worsened with the Taliban's takeover of the government. All the rights they had gained over the years were taken away overnight.

Today, a woman in Afghanistan cannot leave the house without being accompanied by a man, visit public places like parks and gyms, and cannot go out without being properly covered in black, loose clothing that covers her entire body and face. It is a difficult reality to imagine for most Brazilian women, who work outside the home, dress as they wish, and are independent.

Now, imagine a minibus with sixteen Afghan women traveling to Curitiba, without their husbands or male relatives, some without a veil, wearing pants and colorful clothes. A celebration! A milestone in the lives of many of these women.

Such was August 8th, when we received a special invitation from the Women's Auxiliary Society (SAF) for a "Friend's Tea" in Curitiba, at the Central Presbyterian Church. Missão MAIS works with the support and partnership of several organizations and churches, and the Central Presbyterian Church in Curitiba is one of them. SAF is made up of women of all ages who are members of the church. This group of women carries out several initiatives in support of the refugees welcomed by Missão MAIS.

This was another special event: an enjoyable afternoon with the ministry of the Word by Priscilla Furlan, a delightful afternoon tea with many foods and teas, raffle prizes, and lots of laughter.

It was an event quite different from the usual, but one that allowed the women to have a special time for themselves, just laughing, talking, and learning from each other.

These moments of joy and freedom highlight the value of small victories and the importance of supporting and valuing every step toward a more dignified life for each of the refugee women who have lived through such pain, restrictions, and hardships. Together, we can provide love and hope to each one of them.



“September 18 to 22 | Don't miss it”

## BRAZILIAN BASE

Our goal with the Training Center is to introduce people to ways of discovering their vocations and how to apply them. We believe that we have been reconciled with God and are called to exercise the ministry of reconciliation wherever we are, identifying each person's specific vocation from this calling.

Missions, vocation, and the persecuted church are still topics that are rarely discussed in many churches. What should be common is still unknown or little known.

Within this context, we have some strategies to make these topics more widely known and equip people to fulfill the Great Commission.

Thus, we hold events aimed at awakening Christians vocationally. One of these events is the online Training Center (CT Online).

The course consists of five days of live classes via ZOOM, a time dedicated exclusively to discussing topics such as missions and vocation.

The CT Online was held in September and featured the participation of Pastor Maia (president of Missão MAIS), Maycon Barroco (president of Iris Global Brazil), Davi Lago (pastor, professor, and best-selling author), and Pedro do Borel (director of HAJA).

It was a unique and enriching experience, filled with many testimonies and knowledge, addressing topics such as missions and current society, missionary vocation, personal evangelism, missions in the hinterland, and cross-cultural missions.

An enriching opportunity to learn alongside incredible teachers, participating in what God is doing around the world.













# GRADUATION:

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW JOURNEY.

## BRAZILIAN BASE



After ten months of intense study, base maintenance, summaries, local church practice, community service projects, practical work in Paraguay, new friendships, and countless experiences, a cycle has finally come to an end.

On December 1st, 2023, the 18th class of the MAIS Training Center graduated. A ceremony held at the chapel of the Central Presbyterian Church of Curitiba was attended by the students' family and friends in person, and was also streamed live for those who couldn't be physically present to join this special moment.

It was an evening filled with emotions, all planned by the graduates themselves. The ceremony began with a worship service, followed by a musical performance featuring all the students, with songs in several languages: Portuguese, Spanish, and the native language of one of the students' indigenous community. Additionally, one of the students performed a sign language interpretation.

The graduation service was marked by an emotional and encouraging word from Pastor Maia, urging the graduates to never give up on their missionary journey, even amid many challenges.

It was an evening filled with joy, smiles, and farewell hugs. The tears of joy, amid the memories made throughout the year, were inevitable. After this year together, lasting friendships were formed that will accompany them forever on their missionary paths.

After the ceremony, the celebration continued at a restaurant for a time of fellowship and farewell. The celebrations concluded as some traveled back home to their local churches, while others headed towards new missionary challenges, but all focused on the same goal: to continue their Christian journey, spreading the love of Jesus wherever they go and participating in His mission!

**"Never, never, never, never give up!"**





## BRAZILIAN BASE

Converge is an event organized by the Mobilization team of MAIS, with the aim of connecting the stable church with the suffering church!

We live in a constantly changing world, where not everyone is able to be heard or has the opportunity to be seen. Many Christians around the world are affected because of their faith, and they cry out for someone to listen to them and dare to be the answer to their prayers.

Even amid chaos, we have seen signs pointing to the Kingdom of God, bringing hope to the Church of Christ spread across the earth. We are invited to participate in the story that God is writing, giving a voice to the Suffering Church.

In this context, there are two Churches in the world: the Stable Church and the Persecuted Church. It may not be a common habit to think about this topic, but we want the Brazilian Church to awaken to this reality of the Body of Christ.

What are we doing with our freedom?

Through this event, we extend a challenging invitation to the participants: to look at the Church that suffers and be the response to the cry of the Persecuted Church, valuing our freedom.

Every day, we deal with people who are persecuted because of their faith, and we have the opportunity to answer this cry today! Similarly, we dedicate ourselves to being the voice of these people, making this cause known to the Church in Brazil and around the world. Thus, we were able to share this cause in various locations in Brazil and Portugal throughout the year.

In July, we were at the Igreja Luterana Renovada in Içara - Criciúma/SC. We were joined by partners such as FHOP, who led the worship.

In August, we were at the Igreja Presbiteriana in Campo Mourão/PR, where a two-day event took place with roundtable discussions and preachings. We had the presence of our ambassadors Davi Lago and Paulo César Baruk.

In October, we also held a two-day event at the Comunidade Cristã Apostólica (CCAP) in Osasco/SP, where we were joined by one of our persecuted brothers from Afghanistan, who shared his testimony of conversion and "escape" from the country. Additionally, we had the participation of our partners Pastor Marcus Salles and Wesley Santos.





# TESTIMONY

## MIDDLE EAST

“The beatings continued for years, coming close to killing her on several occasions. But Emaan endured the brutal abuse.”

Emaan felt a deep sense of peace and understanding. The book seemed to answer the questions that had been troubling her for so long. The woman in the dream spoke softly to her, saying that the man was Jesus, the Son of God, and that He was the truth and the way. Emaan woke up from the dream with a sense of awe and confusion, unsure of what it meant but knowing deep down that something had shifted inside her.

She began to search for more answers, reading books about Christianity, asking questions, and praying for guidance. Over time, Emaan found herself drawn to the teachings of Jesus, and her heart began to open to the possibility of a faith that was different from what she had known.

Eventually, she made the decision to leave Islam and embrace Christianity. It was a difficult choice, filled with fear of rejection and the potential consequences she would face from her family and community. But Emaan knew she had found the truth, and her newfound faith gave her the strength to stand firm in her decision.

Though she faced immense challenges and persecution for her conversion, Emaan remained steadfast in her belief in Jesus Christ. Her story is one of courage, transformation, and the power of faith to bring healing and hope, even in the most


difficult of circumstances. All the names merged into just one: I AM.

Emaan shared the dream with her husband, but he told her it was satanic. Then, one day, Emaan and her husband installed a new satellite dish. Although Muslim technicians usually filter out Christian channels, this one did not. Emaan began watching Arabic Christian programs and started finding the answers she was looking for. After acquiring her own Bible, she spent the next four years comparing Christianity to Islam. Over time, she rejected Islam and placed her faith in Christ.

When Emaan's husband found out about her Christian faith, he exploded with rage. "He became a beast, really, a wild beast," she said. "He used to hurt me, and when he got tired, he would ask his parents to send people to come and hurt me". He would sometimes lock her in a room for days, separating her from her young children, who cried a lot. The beatings continued for years, coming close to killing her on several occasions. But Emaan endured the brutal abuse.

When she finally asked for a divorce, the government officials initially decided against her because she was considered an apostate for abandoning Islam.





**“I wanted my children to live the Christian life and grow up in the church. Even though they were in danger, I wanted them to attend every Sunday.”**

However, the divorce was eventually approved, and she gained custody of her children, despite her own parents testifying against her because of her Christian faith.

After the divorce, Emaan began attending a Bible study, where she met a man named Abasi, who was also a Christian convert from Islam. His family had tried to kill him with a knife used for slaughtering animals.

After some time, Emaan and Abasi married and moved to a town near the Red Sea, where they began rebuilding their lives. Emaan worked as a hairdresser, and Abasi managed a clothing store.

Although the couple had been baptized as Christians, their official identification cards still classified them as Muslims for governmental reasons. As a result, Emaan, her husband, and their children were viewed with deep suspicion by some members of the traditional Christian community, who doubted the sincerity of their conversions.

To avoid being accused of Muslim proselytism, many traditional Christians do not allow people into their churches unless they have a Christian ID card or an Orthodox cross tattoo. Such tattoos are commonly seen on the hands and wrists of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

Thus, Emaan and Abasi committed to attending church at any cost. "I wanted my children to live the Christian life and grow up in the church," Emaan said. "Even if they were in danger, I wanted them to attend every Sunday".

As the news spread that these "Muslims" claiming to be Christians were attending church, someone secretly recorded a video of them participating in communion and posted it online. After that, Muslims stopped going to Emaan's beauty salon and buying clothes from her husband. Abasi's business soon collapsed. It wasn't long before the police arrested Emaan and Abasi after Muslims complained about their Christian conversions. Abasi was imprisoned for three days and was threatened with death. Her children also faced persecution. Nermeen, her teenage daughter, was forced to wear a hijab at school.

She and her brother were insulted, bullied, and sometimes beaten at school and in their neighborhood. ....It was when several Muslim students kidnapped Nermeen and took her to a deserted place.

They beat her and tried to make her renounce her Christian faith, but failed.



“I learned to love those Muslims who used to insult us, torture us, and hurt us.”

”



"She said she was Christian," Emaan recalled. "Then she lost consciousness, and they thought she had died." When Nermeen regained consciousness, she was alone in the desert. Fortunately, a passing tourist bus helped her. ....After Nermeen's abduction, Emaan and Abasi decided to leave the country. They went to the airport trusting that the Lord would provide a way for them to leave. The Coptic Orthodox Church provided them with a letter stating that they had been persecuted and needed to leave Egypt for their safety, but they did not receive government assistance and had no travel visas. An immigration officer at the airport questioned them about why they wanted to leave the country when their youngest child started screaming incessantly.

The child's outburst of anger seemed to be so irritating that the officer finally let them pass. "This never happens," Emaan said. "It was a miracle." ....The family settled in Lebanon, where they arrived with little money, no friends, or contacts. But soon, they found a church that helped support them. Emaan grew as a Christian in the new church and gradually forgave those who mistreated her, especially those trapped in Islam.

"I learned to love those Muslims who used to insult us, torture us, and hurt us," she said.

Emaan and her family have few earthly resources, possessions, but she remains joyful despite their difficult financial situation. "We have satisfaction in Christ," she said. "We are happy to have nothing. Our life with Christ is so beautiful."

Emaan and Abasi lead several small groups, ministering to Muslims. "It was a very hard, very dry life, like death," she said about their former Islamic beliefs. Today, Emaan is determined to point her Muslim neighbors to the light of Christ.





# Pray for The persecuted church! *Pray for the Middle East.*

- Pray that God strengthens our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Israel;
- Pray for peace in Israel and Palestine;
- Pray for the Christian families in the Gaza Strip controlled by Hamas, who are facing continuous pressure;
- Pray that the Lord raises up new leaders and pastors in Jordan;
- Pray that the missionaries in Oman continue to share God's love with boldness and zeal.

**Follow the channel "MISSÃO MAIS - PEDIDOS DE ORAÇÃO" on WhatsApp:**  
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaBZsFy3wtb4TsLGpU2D>

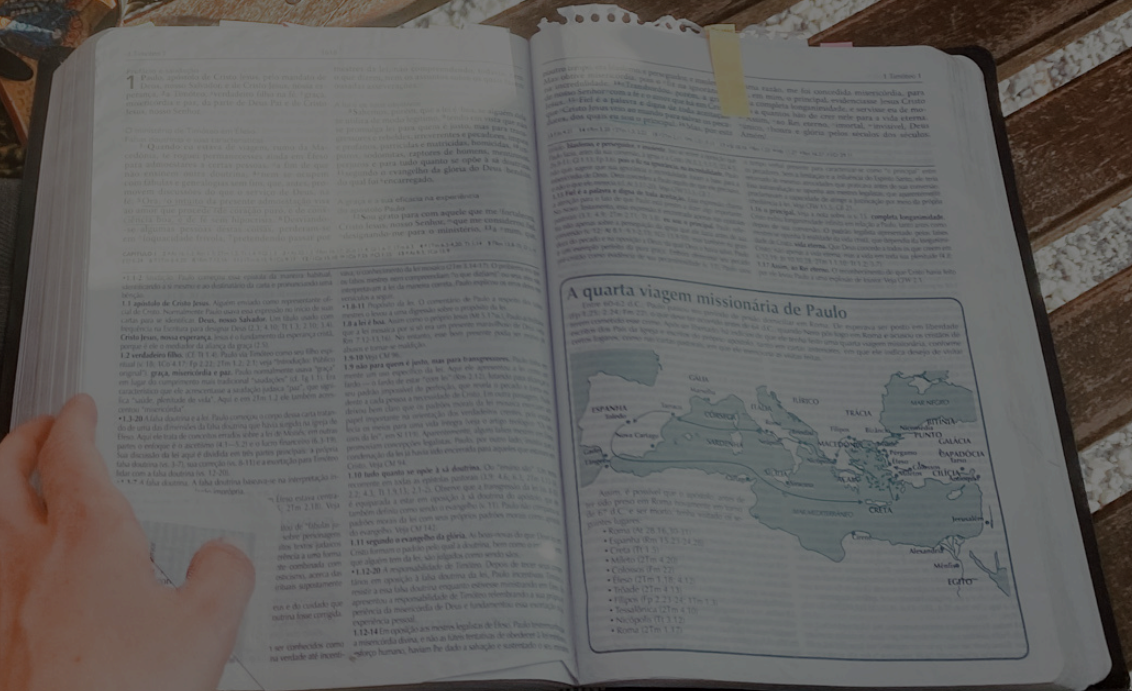
"Remember those who are in bonds, as bound with them,  
and those who are ill-treated, since you are also in the body".

**Hebrews 13:3**





# DARE TO BE THE ANSWER



## MISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE SUFFERING CHURCH

**Bradesco Bank**  
Br: 1867-8  
CA: 14658-7

**Itaú Bank**  
Br: 0937  
CA: 44077-4

**Banco do Brasil**  
Br: 1240-8  
CA: 110050-5

**CNPJ (Business Register) / PIX:**  
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