In Touch

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2026



- God is Faithful: 70 Years of the work in Labrea, Brazil.
- Visiting Northern Brazil
- Moving on to new pastures

Acre International

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Director's Desk



I HAD the privilege of being at the 70th Anniversary services in Lábrea, Brazil recently—and what a joy it was. The group from Manaus gave us such a warm welcome, even though we arrived late at night after a 19-hour journey along the Trans-Amazonian Highway. I've travelled many roads, but I've never been on anything quite like that.

It was also a real blessing to spend time with Pastor Fabiomar and his wife, Marilene, and to enjoy fellowship with so many of the Lord's people. Over the weekend, meeting after meeting was filled with praise as more than 400 people thanked God for His faithfulness through the years.

As I listened to some of the history, I was reminded again that the Lord can bring wonderful blessing out of deep sorrow.

Back in March 1954, as young and enthusiastic missionaries, Fred and Ina Orr left Belfast and travelled to Manaus, right in the heart of the Amazon. When they arrived, James and Dorrie Gunning were boarding the same boat to go home on furlough. James encouraged Fred to wait for a small Catalina plane and fly on to Boca do Acre, where Molly Harvey was waiting for the new recruits. Fred and Ina managed to get a place on a small steamer and soon they were on their way. Then, on the tenth day of that journey, Ina went home to be with the Lord. Her remains were taken from the boat, and she was buried in the little cemetery beside the river. She was only 29.





Fred and Ina Orr

Fred went on to Boca do Acre, and after some months learning the language, he returned to place a memorial to Ina in the town. It wasn't easy, but with the help of the Gunning's (who had returned from furlough) they began to evangelise. People started to listen, and souls began to respond to the message of salvation. That was the beginning of the church there, and on 17th March 1956 the church was founded.

When hard things come into our lives, it's not always easy to see what God is doing—or where

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it's all heading. But our sovereign God sees the whole picture; He knows the end from the beginning.

"Except a corn of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone, but if it dies it bringeth forth much fruit."



The night before Fred and Ina left Belfast on 14th March 1954, a special farewell service was help in Castlereagh Free Evangelical Church to bid farewell to the young couple. Ina had a beautiful singing voice, and she sang the words of this song. Little did she know the significance of the words….

Oh God, the world is lost in sin, And so few that seem to care,
Many of whom profess Thy Name, No burden will help to bear,
We need a passion, Lord, for souls, To bring the lost back to Thee,
Our hearts must be stirred till all have heard At least once of Calvary.

How cold has been our giving, Lord! How selfish our love has been,
Keeping from those who never heard the gospel that saves from sin!
How often we have turned aside Neglecting to do our part,
Forgetting Thy tears and agony, Forgetting Thy bleeding heart

Meet us and break us up, dear Lord Until driven to our knees
Bare to our gaze, thy cross and love, of blood-baptized Calvary,
Speak till we hear again Thy call, and hold nothing back from Thee.
Oh, burn on our hears the hopeless wail of souls damned eternally.

O God, with shame I humbly bow, In tears and a contrite heart.
Forgive me for the broken vows, And failure to do my part.
I heed Thy call and say "Farewell" To all that would hinder me;
Thy grace and Thy love to lost ones tell, And my life burn out for Thee

Let me burn out for Thee, dear Lord Burn and wear out for Thee
Don't let me rust, or my life be a failure, my God, to Thee
Use me and all I have, dear Lord, And hold me so close to Thee
That I feel the throb of the great heart of God Until I burn out for Thee.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the work of the mission. It is as always very much needed and appreciated.

Keith Lindsay

God is faithful: **70 Years of the work in Labrea, Brazil**

Pastor Fabiomar



THE 1st Evangelical Baptist Church in Lábrea celebrated its 70th anniversary with a special Bible Conference from March 13th to 15th, 2026. The conference featured moments of worship, fellowship, and spiritual edification. Church members and many visitors gathered in our packed church to express their gratitude to God for His faithfulness throughout the decades. On Saturday morning, we travelled to our campsite several miles out of town to baptize six believers in the river.

Pastors Jenuan Silva, Mark Loney, and Keith Lindsay ministered the Word during the conference. They delivered edifying, challenging, and encouraging messages to inspire our church members to remain steadfast in its mission.

We were also blessed to have twenty-one members from the Hebrom Evangelical Church in Manaus, and another six members joined us from the Baptist Church downriver in Canutama. Their presence further encouraged and strengthened the spirit of unity and fellowship among these our sister churches.

Another highlight of the Anniversary Conference was having Dr Florence Orr and her son, Nathanael Orr, with us. Florence's father, Fred Orr, founded the church in 1956, and they came to Labrea to represent the Orr family. Fred went to be with the Lord on January 29, 2011.

The conference concluded with a special Thanksgiving Service on March 17th, the actual anniversary date of our church. During this service, several church members shared testimonies about how the church had



contributed to their growth in grace and devotion to the Lord. I must confess that the conference left us with a profound sense of gratitude and spiritual renewal, reaffirming our confidence in God's direction for the church's future.

We want to thank the members of the Acre Gospel Mission who joined us for this special occasion. Pastor Keith Lindsay travelled all the way from Northern Ireland, Pastor Mark Loney came from Portugal, and Pastor César and his wife, Sulamita, leaders of the Acre Gospel Mission's work in Brazil, represented the mission locally.

Our deepest gratitude and praise must first and foremost go to God. We also thank the Acre Gospel Mission, their missionaries, and families who have contributed to the founding and ministry of our church over these 70 years, as well as our church members for their cooperation in the Lord's work here in Lábrea.

Pastor Fabiomar and his wife Marilene took up the call of God to





pastor the church in Labrea 19 years ago. The church has grown both spiritually and physically with over 300 people attending the services each week.

Please pray for this remote town in the Amazon jungle. There are around 27,000 people living in the Labrea area. Many who still don't know the Saviour. Pray that God will move through the work and witness of the church there and they will see much fruit for their continued labours.

TENERIFE

David & Rebecca Blanco

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

IT can be hard to ***rejoice always*** when you're in ministry and there are so many things to do. With people to care for, responsibilities to attend to, the stress and busyness can amount up and cause fatigue and friction.

Every day we are more convinced of our need to depend 100% on the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit and this is done through ***praying without ceasing***, which is continual conversation with our Father. He provides us with everything that we need. Rest, spiritual food, resources, people and purpose. He sustains and leads us and this in turn, leads to ***giving thanks in all circumstances.***

The theory is perfect but it's not always easy to put it into practice and that is why we need your prayers too as it says in Ephesians 6:18: ***Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.***

La Questa Church

The excitement and energy of the first months is wearing off and the real work is beginning; forming leadership, getting to know people on a deeper level and working out how we can move forward as a church. As always, when changes occur and different generations try to work together, there is friction and much discussion. We must not let Satan take advantage of these moments to create division. We remember that everything we do is in the name of Jesus and for His glory alone.

Our hope and vision does not waver because we know that all these things are just a small part of the suffering we are called to endure



La Questa Church

for the privilege it is to know and serve Christ and even that that suffering, through dependence on Him, will produce fruit.

We are so excited to be receiving many new faces at our services on Sundays! God is bringing young people, some with Catholic backgrounds and some with no history of faith at all, to hear His word. We have a young teacher from mainland Spain, living alone here in Tenerife who has been coming to all our services and events who was heard to say recently 'I have found a family here'. A few Sundays ago, a group of 3 young men attended together because one of them had heard David preaching in another church and it had touched his heart. He brought his unbelieving friends along! None of these people have yet made a confession of faith but we are overjoyed that we have the opportunity to share Christ with them.

Over the Easter weekend we had a two-day church retreat in the 3|16 house in La Matanza. We studied the death and resurrection of Jesus together, had small groups, question times, played games and ate plenty! We thank God for this special time, to serve with new people, to deepen our relationships and to renew our wonder in Christ's salvation.

Please pray:

- That God will keep touching hearts and lives through the work and Word at the church.
- For unity within the leadership, that we would have a joint vision for reaching the lost.
- For David, Hans (the German pastor) and Suso (the intern) who share preaching duties.



Puerto De La Cruz Church

Everything is going well in Puerto de La Cruz! We continue to have our English Bible Studies and experience deep conversations about what it means to follow Jesus. We are finishing the gospel of John and will start in Acts in the next few weeks. The Lord is already preparing us by speaking to us about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There is a young couple who attend who we love dearly and are quite new to the faith. They have so many questions and an eagerness to know God more.

We praise God that Rosana, the lady who came from new-age spiritualism, got baptised last Saturday along with other young people from the church.

Please pray:

- That God would continue to lead us in our Bible studies and touch the hearts of the people who come.
- For both churches we work with there, the Bilingual church and its Pastor and the German church and their leadership.

Verdes Pastos

We have just renewed the association members this month and have been praying again, anew about raising funds and moving forward. We made a new video in English explaining more about our vision in a visual way, if anyone would like to see it or share it with others, please let us know.

We have started planning different camps alongside different church groups and it's looking like we will have a very intense summer!

First will be the youth camp NIC (New Identity in Christ) where David has various roles; as the leader of the worship team, organising the mini groups and morning devotions for the monitors, among other things. Rebecca will be partly responsible for the preparation of the prayer room and other crafty things before camp and during the camp her sole responsibility will be providing pastoral care and being close to the camp girls.

Secondly we will be helping out with the kids summer camp (Alpha Camp) which will again, take place in the Catholic school in La Orotava. We are not very happy about the venue as it is expensive, there are no natural spaces, and it is full of statues of the virgin Mary and other Catholic saints! Unfortunately, until we find funds to purchase a property, or unless God provides us with a better place, we have no other option.



We are pleased to officially announce that we are bringing a missions team from Northern Ireland in July. Please see the poster below and feel free to share it with any young people who might be interested.

If you have any questions, please ask Keith Lindsay or ourselves.

Visiting Northern Brazil

HAVING visited Rio de Janeiro last year, I was privileged this year to return to Brazil, but this time to explore the north of the country. As incredible as the food and the nature were in the north, that was not the reason I decided to visit! Through a donation left behind by my late grandparents, Acre Gospel Mission was able to pay for the building of a Baptist church in Campo Redondo, just outside the city of Natal, and I wanted to be the first member of my family to see the church in person!

It was an honour to be immediately received with such open arms by the local pastors there, especially Pastor Iran who I stayed with over my five days there. To see not just the building itself in person, but the thriving community of faithful believers worshipping and diving into God's word on a regular basis was a deep source of encouragement. It reminded me of God's intimate presence and faithfulness all over the world, and the importance in being a part of His plans to advance His kingdom to all the ends of the earth. I had the opportunity to share my testimony on several occasions at different church meetings, blessed with a skilled translator and keen audience! This was also deeply encouraging to be tangibly reminded of the Lord's faithfulness in my own personal life whilst seeing it on display in the lives of others.

Following this, I spontaneously joined a group of pastors and believers who were associated with missionary ventures in northern Brazil on a nine-day conference in Labrea – a mere sixteen-hour drive on bumpy dirt roads from Manaus! Once again, the hospitality and vibrancy of the local believers there (especially the pastor of the Baptist church, Fabiomar) was felt from the get-go, making our time there all the more precious. We had services almost every evening in the local church there, and the days were filled with shared meals and explorations, such as a trip to a small river for a group baptism service surrounded by the acai trees of the amazon rainforest.

The majority of the group returned back to Manaus, whilst a small group of us (myself, Pastor Mark, Pastor Keith, Pastor Cesar and his wife Solemita) decided to venture on a 7 hour boat trip further up river to the small town of Canautama, where we took part in the local church service that evening, and returned the next day. One thing I remember particularly

was our interaction with some of the indigenous locals living by the river, and seeing that even in their tiny community there was still a local church present!

Finally, we returned to Manaus, and although some of the pastors headed back home after a few days, I decided to stay for another month, assisting in teaching English with the local bilingual Christian schools (IBEE). The students there were all very well-behaved and keen to learn. I was particularly amused by how the students were fascinated by this 'gringo' who had come all the way to speak English with them, and treated me as if I were a celebrity! To see Christ integrated boldly and explicitly into classroom contexts, with daily devotionals before the start of the school day and with the words of Scripture painted all around the walls of the schools, I was deeply encouraged and grateful to be a part of that institution.



Alongside this, the weeks were filled with frequent solo trips around Manaus and training jiu jitsu with some local contacts, and exploring the surrounding nature – such as the beautiful waterfalls of Presidente Figureido. Each Sunday, as well as many evenings, was spent in the local 'Hebron' Baptist Church, also founded by Pastor Frederick Orr. It was a joy to engage with this community for an extended period of time and feel truly at home amongst the brothers and sisters there. Hospitality was lavished upon me the whole time I was there, especially by my host Wilma (who directs the two IBEE schools) and I was overwhelmed by their sincere kindness.

This has been an exceptionally encouraging and precious experience, equipping me with spiritual lessons I hope to take with me for the rest of my own Christian walk, wherever I am led – perhaps even back to northern Brazil!

Moving on to new pastures

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

BELOVED brothers and sisters, grace and peace to you.

The Lord has blessed me with my wife, Hadassa, and with three precious daughters: Sophia (8 years old), Rebeca (4 years old), and Eva (1 year old). I was born in the city of Areia Branca, in Rio Grande do Norte, and by God's kindness I was trained at the Berean Baptist Seminary and Institute.

For almost ten years, I served in the city of Montanhas/RN in the ministry of church planting. With a grateful heart, I give thanks to God for the work He allowed us to carry out in that place.

Recently, the Lord led us into a new season of ministry. We are now serving in the city of Martins/RN. The work here began in 1989 through the American missionary Pedro Brooks, and in 2001 it was officially organized as a church.

In 2022, God provided land to build the church and the Pastors house.

At present, the church in Martins has 19 members, with approximately 35 attendees in total. By the Lord's grace we are settling in well, and our hearts are full of joy for the city, the church, and the dear brothers and sisters. I thank God for everything He has done.

As we are not long arrived here, we are getting to know the brothers and sisters, making visits to those who have been attending the services, and carrying out weekly evangelism. We have also begun discipleship with eight young people; among them, we rejoice to have three new converts.

"The region where we are located is greatly in need of the true gospel."

In addition, we are preparing to begin a ministry with children.

The region where we are located is greatly in need of the true gospel. There are many churches of various denominations, yet most do not proclaim salvation solely through faith in Jesus Christ. Many still teach a salvation grounded in works.

We continue steadfast and confident that the Lord will supply all our needs and graciously guide this work, that everything may be done for the glory of His name. Thank you so much for your faithfulness in praying for and supporting the work of Acre Gospel Mission.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Walkênio & Hadassa & Family



Faithful witnesses for Christ

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you."

2 Thess. 3:1



OUR new ministry here in the Seridó region, in the city of Caicó, is set before us as a great and weighty challenge. The trials are many, especially because the religiosity of this land is strong and Catholicism is widespread—yet nothing is beyond the mighty hand of God, who opens doors no one can shut.

In the little we have already seen of Caicó, and through the visits the Lord has allowed us to make, we have noticed that in nearly every home there is an

image of Saint Anne, the patron saint of the city. Each July, the people gather for her festival—one of the largest celebrations in our state.

Alongside this strong religiosity, we also carry the burden of the church's wounded testimony in the city because of former leaders. Because of these painful events, a great task lies before us: to live as a faithful example to the church and to society, and—by God's grace—to help reshape how this city sees Christ's church.

Within the congregation, we have been increasing our visits with the brothers and sisters, seeking to know the flock more closely. Many are thirsty for the Word and long to see the church grow and advance in the city.

I have been encouraging them to begin with a life of clear, consistent testimony. Others are discouraged because progress has been slow. Even so, we trust that the Lord has placed us here for such a time as this, and He will strengthen His people for the work ahead.

By God's kindness, we have been able to begin and strengthen the following work:

1. Discipling and caring for children who have not been attending church since 2010.

2. Street evangelism—we have returned to this work and are calling the church to get involved.

3. Monthly evangelism outreach at the market.

4. Monthly worship services in the homes of the brothers and sisters, that fellowship may be strengthened and hearts encouraged.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(please lift us before the Lord):

1. Our family — protection, unity, and joy in the Lord.

2. Our ministry:

- Wisdom to shepherd well and serve with humility.

- Health and strength for the work.

3. An awakening to evangelism in the church here in Caicó—that many would be stirred to love the lost and proclaim Christ with boldness.

With love in Christ, thank you for standing with us in prayer.

Pastor Adriano & Maria & Family

Angola: Where tiredness turns into joy

UNDER the Angolan sun, something quietly beautiful has been unfolding.

From Thursday through the weekend, Pastors Herberth, Elias, and Pinheiro from Mozambique poured themselves into the training of native lay pastors, equipping and encouraging those who faithfully serve their local churches. What followed was not simply a programme of meetings, but days marked by deep joy, generous sacrifice, and visible fruit.

Sunday began early, with preaching taking place in different churches throughout the morning. There was barely a pause before the afternoon brought something especially close to the heart: a practical "Jesus Me Ama" ("Jesus Loves Me") session, led as a hands-on lesson at the church. Children gathered, eyes bright and hearts open, as the simple yet powerful message of Christ's love was shared in song, teaching, and joyful participation.

What was planned as a busy day soon became an unforgettable one. From the morning services, the work flowed directly into the children's club — so seamlessly that there was no time even to stop for lunch. By the end of the session, 82 children had taken part in Jesus Me Ama, followed immediately by training for 32 teachers from various churches who had come eager to learn how to serve children more effectively.

The following days continued with both theory and practice. Leaders and teachers were encouraged not only to begin children's ministry, but to persevere in it — faithfully, joyfully, and with confidence that this work truly matters. Another children's club closed the training, bringing laughter, learning, and worship together once again.

By the time the commitments in Angola concluded, the numbers told only part of the story: 113 children reached through the Jesus Me Ama club, and 23 teachers and leaders completing the preparatory course for children's ministry. The greater testimony, however,

was seen in transformed perspectives, renewed calling, and grateful hearts.

One reflection captured the spirit of it all:

"Before, I would spend the day without eating, exhausted, solving problems at my job. Today, I can do this for my Saviour Jesus. There is no tiredness that could ever repay what He did for me, and no greater joy than being able to give my life to Him in this way."

As the work in Angola draws to a close for now, the vision is



already widening. The hope is not only to return next year, but also to extend this same training to Mozambique, continuing the multiplication of leaders who will invest in the next generation.

With deep gratitude for prayer, support, and partnership, all praise is given to God — for strength, for fruit, and for the privilege of serving.

May God always be praised.

Pastor Jander

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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PRAYER

"Since the mission began almost 90 years ago, prayer has been at its heart. Over the years, prayer groups have met faithfully in church halls, mission halls, and people's homes — quietly and consistently strengthening this work. We are deeply grateful to the thousands who have given their time to intercede for our missionaries and for the needs of the mission. God has been faithful, and we continue to thank all who meet month by month to pray."

Why not join one of our prayer groups somewhere near you — or even host a small group yourself. A lovely group of ladies meets once a month in Marlene's home in Bangor, and there's always a warm welcome and a cup of tea at the end!

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, That, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him"
1 John 5 V 14





My response

☐ I would like to receive your monthly Prayer Letter/Magazine.

☐ I would like a Gift Aid form.

☐ I have enclosed a gift of £ _____ to help present the Gospel message to the millions of people in Brazil, Portugal, Lanzarote and Northern Ireland.

Name .....

Address .....

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Please send to:

Acre International, 52A Halfpenny Gate Road, Moira, Co Armagh, BT67 0HP

Christian hospitality in remote, riverside town

RECENTLY, following our visit to Lábrea, we journeyed down the winding River Purus in a six-seater aluminium boat, skimming through the heart of the Amazon rainforest.

Dense jungle pressed in on both sides as the river carried us ever deeper into this vast and beautiful wilderness.

Cesar and Sulamita, Mark Loney, Luka Ward, myself, and our boatman shared the six-hour, 150-mile journey to the remarkably remote riverside town of Canutama.

On arrival, we were greeted with warmth and genuine hospitality in the home of church deacon Saitan, his wife Anelice, and their young daughter. Their welcome was a beautiful reminder that Christian fellowship transcends distance, culture, and circumstance.

It was to this very place that, in 1960, Acre missionaries Jack and



Joan Mawdsley were first called. While travelling on a flight, they met the Mayor of Canutama and shared with him the message of the Gospel. He told them that no one had ever brought the Good News to his town and invited them to come.

Recognising both the invitation and the call of God, they accepted the challenge and travelled to this isolated corner of the Amazon.

The Mawdsleys built a small wooden home on the main street and began faithfully sharing Christ with the local people. In 1961, Bill Woods joined them in the work. It was during this time that Bill became aware of the suffering caused by leprosy in the community — an illness largely ignored and untreated — and compassion moved him to respond.

God worked powerfully in Canutama. Many lives were transformed, including that of a Spanish priest named Filipe, who came to understand the Gospel and surrendered his life to the Lord. Over the years, others laboured faithfully alongside the Mawdsleys, including Bill Woods, Hazel Miskimmin, Victor and Audrey Maxwell, and Lucimar Geddis. Through their obedience and perseverance, the church was firmly established, and leadership was eventually entrusted to Brazilian pastors.

Today, the church stands as a testimony to God's faithfulness. Although it is currently without a pastor, the fellowship remains strong.

We ask you to pray that God will call and appoint the right shepherd to lead and care for the church in Canutama in the days ahead.

Autumn Break in the Killyhevlin 2026



Overlooking Lough Erne, this contemporary hotel is two miles from Enniskillen Castle and three miles from Enniskillen Golf Club

Monday 9th – Thursday 12th November 2026

In Conversation with Acre Missionaries

Pastor David & Rebecca Blanco, Tenerife. And others

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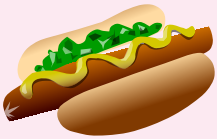
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Acre Annual BBQ

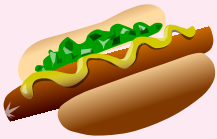


Saturday 20th June 2026

At The Faith Mission Centre, Mahon Road, Portadown



at 7pm



Special music by The Hanna Family

Update on the work and recent visit to the Amazon in Brazil.

FREE ADMISSION: Offering will be uplifted for the ongoing work of the mission.

