

# *Brazil*



VOLUNTEERS  
FOR CHRIST

## 40 Days of Spiritual Preparation

Based on *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan 2002

# What on Earth Am I Here For?

DAY

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WHAT MATTERS?

*This trip is not about you. It is about God. God's purpose is what matters most, not yours or mine. It may seem like this would be easy to remember on a mission trip. Not necessarily. Actually, emotions, good and bad, may be amplified on this trip. Begin praying right now that all of us will remember that what matters most is fulfilling God's purposes.*

*"...Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. Colossians 1:16  
Msg*

DAY

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9

WHAT MAKES YOU, YOU?

*You are not on this team by accident. You have felt God's call to go to Brazil at this time and with this team. That happened because the Sovereign God chose you before you heard His call. In addition, He **formed** you before you were born. And when He did, He had this occasion in mind along with all the others He planned for you. That's what makes you, you. God's creation, call, and commission. You may not be Jeremiah, but you will be God's "spokesman to the world." Pray that you will carry out **His** call while we are in Brazil.*

*"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my spokesman to the world." Jeremiah  
1:5 NLT*

DAY

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WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

*What is your motivation for going to Brazil? It is unlikely that you are going to Brazil for personal glory, but that is possible. Don't you like it when you tell people where you are going and they praise you for it? It is also unlikely that you are going just for the fun of it. If you are, be ready for some surprises. The best times on this trip will be those times that you feel closest to God. You will feel closest to God when you know He is smiling with you. Pray that you will make it your goal to please God in every situation.*

*"...We make it our goal to please him..." 2 Corinthians 5:9a NIV*

DAY

3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS TRIP?

*God has an eternal meaning for this trip. I don't know what all of it is, yet. I may not know until I get to Heaven. I know this—God is always working to*

7	<p>complete His Kingdom purpose. You are part of that every day. While you are on this trip, you may experience an overwhelming sensation of being part of His eternal purpose. You may not know all that that means, but you will know that you are where God wants you. Pray that you will keep your eyes on His eternal purpose.</p> <p><i>“We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV</i></p>
DAY 3 6	<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT KIND OF MANAGER ARE YOU?</p> <p>God has blessed us with more than we can use just for ourselves. Instead of “building bigger barns,” He wants us to use our talents, gifts, money, and time to honor Him through ministry to others. In fact, everything we have is His—we are managers of God’s gifts. What does God require of managers? – Faithfulness. Pray that on this trip you will be a faithful manager of all with which God has blessed you.</p> <p><i>“A person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2 NLT</i></p>
DAY 3 5	<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU TAKE?</p> <p>When we get to Heaven, we will realize that most of what we thought of as important has ceased to exist. We can tell people they need to live in a free nation, belong to a particular political party, and attend a church of our choosing. We can say all those things with great conviction. If someone heeds our advice, they <i>might</i> be better off...at least for now. But when they get to Heaven (if they do), they will wonder why we thought those things were so important compared to the message of the Gospel. Pray that you will not be “ashamed of the gospel.”</p> <p><i>“Whoever believes in Him will have eternal life.” John 3:15 NASU</i></p>
DAY 3 4	<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT MATTERS MOST?</p> <p>It’s all for God’s glory. That’s the bottom line. Pray that you will bring glory to God through all that you think, say, and do on this trip... that He will be glorified because of you being in Brazil.</p> <p><i>“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV</i></p>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">You Were Planned for God’s Pleasure</h2>	
<p style="text-align: center;">GOD’S DELIGHT</p>	

<p>DAY 3 3</p>	<p>“Jesus loves me, this I know...” <i>Do you know? Do you know that God delights in you? You are leaving some family and friends behind while you are on this trip. They love you. They will miss you. No matter how much they love you, God loves you more. You are His delight, His pleasure. Thank God now and every day you are in Brazil that He takes pleasure in you as His child.</i></p> <p><i>The LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.</i></p> <p>Psalms 149:4 NIV</p>
<p>DAY 3 2</p>	<p>MY DELIGHT</p> <p><i>I delight in many things: my favorite dessert, a new car, a great day with my family. You can name more delights of your own. When I enjoy something so much that I can say it brings me delight, I am making a statement about real pleasure. Real pleasure comes from making God smile. How do I do that? By honoring Him with my life. Pray that you will honor God on this trip. Pray that your greatest delight will be His smile.</i></p> <p><i>He takes pleasure in those who honor him, in those who trust in his constant love.</i></p> <p>Psalms 147:11 GNT</p>
<p>DAY 3 1</p>	<p>GOD’S DELIGHT, MY DELIGHT</p> <p><i>I have a problem with the hymn <i>I Surrender All</i>. My problem is not with the music or the theology—it’s with my lack of ability to sing it and not feel guilty. I have tried total surrender, but I can’t seem to get the hang of it. Do you know what I mean? But I think the secret of surrender is doing it <i>daily</i>. Won’t it be great if God uses you to advance His Kingdom while you are in Brazil? Willingly offer <i>yourself</i> to God right now and every day for Him to use according to His pleasure.</i></p> <p><i>Offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.</i></p> <p>Romans 6:13 HCSB</p>
<p>DAY 3 0</p>	<p>DELIGHT IN FRIENDSHIP</p> <p><i>Here is a thought that should make you smile: God wants to be your friend—your best friend. It’s true that the almighty Ruler of the Universe is awesome and holy...that He will judge us on Judgment Day. But it’s also true that He wants to be your friend. That’s why Jesus died—to restore the relationship that sin had severed. You will deepen friendships with your team on this trip.</i></p>

	<p>But begin praying now that you will develop a deeper bond with your best friend, Jesus.</p> <p><i>I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer.... But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. John 15:15 AMP</i></p>
<p>DAY 2 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DELIGHT IN CLOSENESS</p> <p>Even among friends, there are degrees of trust, openness, and sharing. The deepest level of relationship is intimacy. Intimacy happens when you allow God to remove anything in your life that is hindering you from allowing Him full access to the deepest part of you. There may be times on this trip that those hindrances will be so apparent that you will plead with God to remove them so you can have full access to His presence. Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare you to choose intimacy when your weaknesses come face to face with God's holiness.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:8 NIV</i></p>
<p>DAY 2 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE PLEASURE OF GOD'S DELIGHT</p> <p>When Jesus told the woman at the well that true worshipers worship in spirit and truth, He told her that, "the Father wants such people to worship Him." (Jn 4:23 HCSB) God Loves you completely. He takes delight in your love for Him. The most important preparation for this trip is to reaffirm your love for Him—to take pleasure in loving Him with all you are. Tell Him that now.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. Mark 12:30 HCSB</i></p>
<p>DAY 2 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DISTANT DELIGHT</p> <p>There may be times on this trip when God seems distant. You know in your heart that you love Him and that He loves you, but you cannot feel His presence. Be sure that God is working even when you cannot see or feel Him...that He is advancing His Kingdom...that He is working all things together for your good because you love Him. When God seems distant, delight in His promise to be with you always. Ask Him now to prepare you for those times.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew</i></p>

## You Were Formed for God's Family

DAY

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## EMBRACING THE FAMILY OF GOD

*Of the various names of God's Kingdom on earth, "family" is the most personal. His church is comprised of His children. In your local church, you experience fellowship and ministry together in relationship. On this trip, you will meet other Family members who look, live, and speak differently than you. Like you, they are part of the Family of God—you have the same Father. Begin to pray daily for the Brazilian believers the Father will bring into your life.*

*His love is so great that we are called God's children. 1 John 3:1 GNT*

DAY

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## LOVING THE FAMILY OF GOD

*How well do you love? You are about to find out. You will be in close quarters, stressful situations, and long days with people you hardly know and others that you thought you knew. Pray that God will help you to love each team member as you love yourself in every situation...that you will express that love to the missionaries in Brazil and to other believers you may meet.*

*The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

*Galatians 5:14 NIV*

DAY

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## SERVING IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

*When God saved you, He also gifted you. He placed you in a local body of believers, where you fill a unique role. No one can be you, but you. Similarly, God has placed you on this team. He will use your gifts, talents, and personality to complete the makeup of this team—perhaps in ways you cannot imagine. Pray that you will humbly serve the Lord in the role He will show you.*

*God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. 1*

*Corinthians 12:18 Msg*

DAY

2

## SUPPORTING THE FAMILY OF GOD

*There is a lot of give and take in a family. It is imperative that every team member work with the missionary, the team leaders, and with each other. We are a **TEAM**. Cooperation on this trip is not just doing what you are told, but*

<p>3</p>	<p>sensing what others need. Sometimes you will need encouraging and sometimes you will do the encouraging. Don't interfere, but don't ignore, either. Pray that you will "be there" when others need you and that you will allow others to "be there" for you.</p> <p><i>Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 ESV</i></p>
<p>DAY 2 2</p>	<p>MAKING THE FAMILY OF GOD WORK</p> <p>Here are four good words from Rick Warren: honesty, humility, courtesy, and confidentiality. Those four things can make our team successful. Pray now that you will not deceive, be proud, be rude, or violate a confidence. Forgetting these things may affect more than our team. It may put others at risk in this secure country.</p> <p><i>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 NIV</i></p>
<p>DAY 2 1</p>	<p>HEALING THE FAMILY OF GOD</p> <p>It's bound to happen. Travel weariness...strange places, food, and people...being out of your comfort zone. Words will be exchanged and attitudes developed. It usually happens about halfway through the trip, but it can happen at any time. What do we do? Keep short accounts, taking care of disagreements quickly and in love. Forgive...Restore...make sure healing occurs...then move on with the mission. Pray for each other—starting now!</p> <p><i>Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. James 5:16 Msg</i></p>
<p>DAY 2 0</p>	<p>PROTECTING THE FAMILY OF GOD</p> <p>You will have a wonderful experience in Brazil. You will see new places, buy some gifts to take home, and make new friends. Besides, you go to serve Christ. Enjoy every minute of it! But while you do, remember this: nothing you do or want is as important as protecting the work of God's Kingdom. Do nothing; say nothing that will hurt the work of the missionary or local believers. Pray for the team (and yourself) to respect the Brazilian church by observing all rules of safety and security. Pray that we will be a blessing, not an embarrassment.</p> <p><i>But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.</i></p>

## You Were Created to Become Like Christ

DAY

### DEVELOPING THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

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Everything God does in your life is meant to make you more like Jesus. God will use every event on this trip to develop the character of Christ in you. Since you have a servant's heart, you are going to Brazil for the Brazilian people—you want them to know Jesus' love. And you know that this trip is not about you, but about God. Do you also know that God wants to use this trip to transform you into the image of His Son? Pray that you will be more like Jesus when you return.

*As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory*

*even more. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT*

DAY

### DEVELOPING THE MIND OF CHRIST

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Mental preparation is crucial to our success. What you think about and how you think about it will determine how prepared you will be for the experience you are about to have. Don't let Satan fill your mind with negative, fearful thoughts. Instead, let God transform your mind so that you see everything that happens through His perspective. Pray that you will have the mind of Christ.

*Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind.*

*Romans 12:2 GNT*

DAY

### DEVOTED TO THE WORD OF GOD

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We have unlimited access to God's Word. Brazilian believers treasure God's Word. Do you? The verses you read in this preparation guide can transform you if you take them to heart and live them out. It's not so much how much Scripture you read, as how much it changes you. Pray that you will be devoted to God's Word, reading and obeying it from your heart.

*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.*

*John 8:31  
NASB*

DAY

### DISCIPLINED BY THE PURPOSE OF GOD

Romans 8:29 tells us that God uses every experience, good or bad, to conform

<p>1 6</p>	<p>us to the image of His Son. On this trip, your emotions will run the gamut because of the variety of things you will see. Some things will be hard to do. Remember, God uses all these experiences to change you. Pray that you will be open to the discipline of God, even in difficult times.</p> <p><i>God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28 NLT</i></p>
<p>DAY 1 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DASHING THE HOPES OF SATAN</p> <p>Satan will do whatever it takes to ruin this trip for you and for the Kingdom. He will tempt you with worry, discouragement, a critical spirit, a selfish focus, and anything it takes to keep you from obeying God. He hopes you will fail. The Bible says, <i>Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.</i> (James 4:7 NIV) Commit now to dash the hopes of Satan—Resist temptation—Trust God. Ask God to equip you with discernment, discipline, and devotion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:27 NIV</i></p>
<p>DAY 1 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DEFEATING THE ATTACKS OF SATAN</p> <p>When Satan attacked Jesus in the desert, Jesus defeated him with Scripture. Doubtless, Satan was there in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus won the victory through prayer. Though Satan wants to defeat you, you have a spiritual arsenal available. <i>Use God's mighty weapons...to knock down the Devil's strongholds.</i> (2 Cor. 10:4 NLT) Find the list of spiritual armor in Ephesians 6 and pray through it, “putting on” each piece of the armor for this trip.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Put on God's armor now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks. Ephesians 6:13 GNT</i></p>
<p>DAY 1 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DEDICATED TO THE PROCESS OF GROWTH</p> <p>This trip will change you. God will use this time to mold you even more into Christ's likeness. You may never be the same, but you will not be completed. God will continue the work in you until the day you see Jesus. The Bible says, <i>When he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.</i> (1 John 3:2 NIV) In the meantime, dedicate yourself to the process of spiritual growth. In your prayer today, commit yourself to the lifelong process toward maturity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:6 NASB</i></p>

# You Were Shaped for Serving God

<p>DAY 1 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A SERVANT'S HEART</p> <p>One of the most helpful qualities of a team member is to have a servant's heart. Instead of finding ways to criticize, find ways to serve each other. Jesus said that Kingdom greatness is in serving one another. A servant's heart allows you to see others' needs as just as important as your own. It helps you look past your needs so that you can help others. Pray that God would give you a servant's heart...a heart of compassion for other team members...of love for the Brazilians.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13 NIV</i></p>
<p>DAY 1 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A SERVANT'S ASSIGNMENT</p> <p>The gospels record 20 times that Jesus told people to follow Him. You don't always know where you will end up when you follow Jesus, but you know this one thing: <i>Jesus will be there.</i> Your primary assignment is to follow Jesus. Along the way, you will learn the unique ways Jesus wants to use you, but you will not find them without following Him. When Peter questioned Jesus about John, Jesus answered with today's verse. Pray that you will follow Jesus every day in Brazil.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What is that to you? You follow Me. John 21:22 NKJV</i></p>
<p>DAY 1 0</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A SERVANT'S SHAPE</p> <p>God has equipped each one of us with a unique combination of Spiritual gifts, Heart (passion), Abilities, Personality, and Experience. God designed you to fulfill a unique role, based on your SHAPE. Bring it all (SHAPE) with you to Brazil and put it at the disposal of Jesus. Expect to be stretched in any or all of those areas. Allow other team members to use their SHAPE to serve. Pray that, like a maestro, Jesus will put it all together into one team for His purpose and glory.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalms 139:13 NIV</p>
<p>DAY 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A SERVANT'S SERVICE</p> <p>Knowing your SHAPE is important, but diligence is more important. Even if you don't know your spiritual gifts, for instance, God can use you if you <i>want</i> to serve. If you "show up" each day ready to serve, God will bring success.</p>

	<p>Jesus doesn't need prima donnas; He needs people of personal diligence. Pray that you would be a worker. Pray that our team would succeed like the people who rebuilt the Temple. Pray that people would report of us...</p> <p><i>This work is being done diligently and succeeding through the people's efforts.</i></p> <p>Ezra 5:8 HCSB</p>
<p>DAY 8</p>	<p>A SERVANT'S ATTITUDE</p> <p>Just as important as diligence is humility. Jesus demonstrated this quality repeatedly. When He washed His disciples' feet...when He healed the woman with the disease that caused her to bleed...when He chose to go to the cross. Jesus was a humble servant. Pray that you will be a humble servant, too, to team members, to the missionaries, to the Brazilian people.</p> <p><i>Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Mark 10:43</i></p> <p>NIV</p>
<p>DAY 7</p>	<p>A SERVANT'S THOUGHT LIFE</p> <p>Just as God transforms us through our minds, Satan defeats us through our thoughts. The point is not to think only positive thoughts, as some have said. The point is that every thought we have be subjected to the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is an easy jump from humility to haughtiness. One "success" can change your attitude from servanthood to sarcasm. Pray that you would submit every thought (good or bad, positive or negative) to the Lordship of Jesus.</p> <p><i>We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5</i></p> <p>NIV</p>
<p>DAY 6</p>	<p>A SERVANT'S STRENGTH</p> <p>The world promotes strength differently than the Bible. The world talks about the power of personality and the confidence from having "six-pack abs." Products to enhance performance, energy, appearance all claim to make you more confident, more in charge. God has a different message—weakness is our strength. Actually, not the weakness, but God's grace. Pray that you will depend on God's grace for your wisdom, confidence, and strength.</p> <p><i>"My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." 2</i></p> <p>Corinthians 12:9 GNT</p>
<p><b>You Were Made for a Mission</b></p>	

<p>DAY 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMISSION—OBEYING THE COMMAND.</p> <p>You know the <i>Great Commission</i>. It is probably one reason you are going on this trip. You know that the <i>Great Commission</i> to make disciples of all nations is for all Christians. As part of that command, Jesus has a great commission for you. Have you accepted the personal mission God has for you? Like Paul, pray that you may complete the mission and work He has for you to do.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I only want to complete my mission and finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Acts 20:24 GNT</p>
<p>DAY 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONFESSION—TELLING YOUR STORY</p> <p>Since Brazil is an open country, you will be able to witness openly. So, if someone <i>asks</i> you about your life, it will be an open door to share. The hope in you is from Jesus. Be ready to give your testimony—to tell your story. Maybe God will give you a chance to “confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord.” (Ro. 10:9 NIV) Ask God to open doors to give testimony about His Son.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.</i> 1 Peter 3:15 Msg</p>
<p>DAY 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETION—BEING PART OF GOD’S STRATEGY</p> <p>Every person is created in God’s image. Since that image is marred by sin, most people do not know God. In His mysterious wisdom, God chose to use people like us to tell those who don’t know Him how they can. His strategy was in place when Adam sinned. It will culminate when He decides, in Heaven. Pray that He will use you as part of His eternal, global strategy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.</i> Revelation 7:9 NIV</p>
<p>DAY 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPLATION—JOURNALING</p> <p>Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a great role model. She not only listened to God, but she also meditated on any message she received. Such as, after the shepherds left, she <i>treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.</i> (Luke 2:19 NASB) Contemplation is a lost art in our busy world. Journaling can help. Recording the events of the trip through God’s eyes will help you see His hand and understand His heart.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>At the LORD's direction, Moses kept a written record of their progress.</i></p>

	Numbers 33:2 NLT
DAY <b>1</b>	<p>COMMENCEMENT—LET'S GO!</p> <p>Tomorrow we leave for Brazil! This will be a great trip. Put all fears and concerns in God's hands, trusting Him for the unknown. Check one more time to be sure you have all you need, then submit all your plans, preparation, and hopes to God. This trip is not about you, anyway. It is about accomplishing God's purpose.</p> <p><i>Dear Father, Help me to go with You, because I know you go with me. Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose for him that will stand.</i></p> <p>Proverbs 19:21 AMP</p>

*We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.*

2 Thess. 1:11 NIV