



God's Impact on the Brazilian Perspectives Movement

By **ESTEVÃO MULLER**

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The Beginning

The challenge was before us. What could a small group of ordinary people do to impact the missions movement of a church of more than 50 million believers in a country the size of the continental United States? In 2008, we started by gathering approximately 70 pastors and mission leaders together to present the Perspectives vision and material. Although we dreamt of how Perspectives could move the Brazilian church, we could not have imagined the magnitude of what God would do over the next 16 years to mobilize his people for his mission.

In the late 2000s, many mission leaders were discouraged, believing that the Brazilian church was losing a vision for sending missionaries. But God had other plans and began to move into the church. Although Perspectives started slowly (with just a few

courses each year), the movement began to explode in 2014. By 2018, Perspectivas Brasil offered 50 classes a year with an average of 65 students per class. Despite the pandemic, Perspectivas Brasil has now surpassed 22,000 alumni, including more than 3,000 pastors.

A New Momentum

These statistics, however, tell only a small part of the story about how God moved in Brazil through Perspectives. A new momentum of mission mobilization began to take place and Perspectives grew into the country's largest mission mobilization movement with over 800 volunteers. Several other mobilization efforts joined Perspectives, such as the *VOCARE* youth movement (started in 2012). Together these movements began to impact Brazilian missions as a whole.

With this new momentum, God used Perspectivas Brasil's first national director, Jacó Muller¹, to influence missions mobilization. He became known for his biblical vision of mobilization, in which he states that God is the greatest mobilizer and, since God desires to engage his people in his mission, anything is possible. "Dá!," which in English means "It can be done!" or "It is possible!," became the cry of many missions mobilizers. If God is behind mobilizing his people, then the most unlikely person and the most improbable leader can be mobilized. This momentum spurred many mission mobilization organizations to finally get more engaged in mission mobilization. Today, upon entering the Perspectivas Brasil national office, you'll see this motto on the wall: "We believe in the eminence of a missionary awakening in Brazil, but regardless of how the Brazilian church responds to this, knowing that this is God's will already gives us sufficient reason to invest in mobilization." All of this was supported by a Perspectives national prayer movement that started in 2014 and currently has hundreds of alumni and volunteers praying, with coverage 24hrs a day, 7 days a week for the PSP movement and for UPGs.

Spirit of Pioneering and Sacrifice

The early coordinators and volunteers had a spirit of pioneering and sacrifice to spread the vision of God's global purpose. Among the hundreds of stories to be told, I'll share a handful. One woman moved to another state for three months to take Perspectives in order to start the course in her own state in northeastern Brazil. Two single mobilizers not only took the course over three months in another state, but they then moved six hours away to a larger city and lived in a church classroom for six more months so that they could coordinate the course there. Young Jacó completed the course in 2011, felt called to unreached peoples (UPGs), but sensed God call him to first mobilize his friends and city. In 2013, he coordinated his first course. By 2014, he served full-time, overseeing seven courses in two states. At the end of the year, he became the national director and served in that role until September of 2023, when he began serving as a church planter among a UPG.

¹ Jacó Muller is his pseudonym, for security reasons.

Influencing Churches and Leaders

Over the years, we've heard stories of God using Perspectives courses to influence local churches. One church leader was so moved that he worked to change the vision statement of his church. That same leader went on to serve as a Perspectives coordinator and regional director for nine years. In the interior of the state of Rio de Janeiro, pastors from different denominations who took the course together decided to start a city-wide mission council. Although these pastors typically do not interact, they joined forces to support cross-cultural mission efforts, both inside and outside Brazil. Their first project put together a team to reach out to the local gypsy community, among whom no one was working. Last year, one of our board members and former coordinators worked with a church not only to offer the Perspectives course but also to help church leaders adopt a mission policy that prioritizes church planters among the unreached. They've already adopted a new missionary family going to the Muslim world.

Serving Mission Agencies

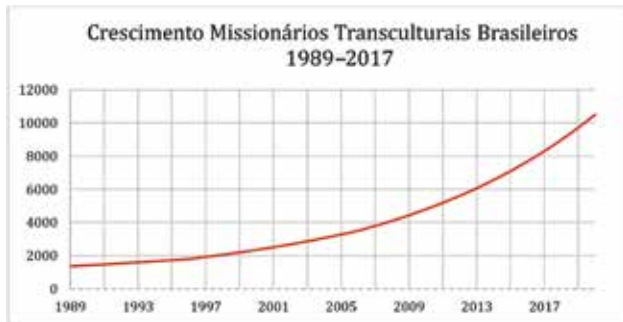
God has used Perspectivas Brasil to serve many mission-sending agencies. A well-established agency had to restructure its candidate-training course to accommodate twice as many candidates, a number they attributed to Perspectives. Recently, a large denominational sending board said that they were reaping the effect of Perspectives in the form of many new missionary candidates. Several times, God used Perspectives as a launching platform for other organizations. The director of Friends of the Gypsies, an organization planting churches among gypsies, dubbed Perspectives as their "John the Baptist." He said, "Everywhere you go, someone wants to start a ministry to the gypsies, and they call us." In 2023, the Perspectivas Brasil office gave logistical and personnel support to three new mobilization ministries as they got established in Brazil.

Growth of Missionary Sending

All of this has significantly affected the growth of Brazilian missionary sending. In their 2017 Research Report,² the Brazilian Association of Cross-Cultural

² AMTB, "Research Report of the Brazilian Cross-Cultural Missionary Force" (São Paulo, 2017), 7 and 22.
ambt.org.br/forca-missionaria-brasileira-transcultural/

Missions (AMTB) cited Perspectives as one of the key mobilization factors for the growth of Brazilian missionary sending, an increase from 6,000 in 2006 to more than 12,000 missionaries in 2017, a number that has since surpassed 15,000.³ As of 2017, 21% of the missionary force works to reach the many indigenous tribal groups within Brazil. Also, 32% of the Brazilian mission force serves the effort to reach Muslims (20%), Hindus, and Buddhists. These figures reflect a significant shift in the focus and priority of the Brazilian missions movement. God has called many Perspectives volunteers and alumni to serve overseas. For example, one young couple took Perspectives, then coordinated two classes, and now serves in North Africa as church planters!



Beyond Brazil

The movement has spread beyond Brazil's borders. Perspectives Brasil has been privileged to offer the Perspectives course in Angola for the past four years to more than 600 church leaders from various denominations, reaching 15 of the 18 Angolan provinces.

New Ministries


In 2020, God led Perspectives Brasil to launch several new mobilization ministries to serve the Brazilian church with a vision for reaching all peoples. First, Perspectives Kids was developed as an interactive Sunday School curriculum for local churches to teach the principles found in Perspectives to children from 6–12 years old. A second ministry, CONVOC, was established as a training course to help those with a vocational call to missions connect with solid mission agencies working among UPGs. Finally, SIG (Serving

the Global Church) was developed as an online resource program to aid local churches in developing strong missions engagement, building on the five principles of going, giving, sending, mobilizing, and welcoming.

A Missionary Decade

Today, Perspectives is known and respected by the key leaders of the Brazilian missions movement and by most mission agency leaders with the AMTB. The course is required or recommended by many of these agencies. At the Perspectives National Congress in 2019, 1,100 mission mobilizers came from around the country to sign the Sumaré Pact, committing themselves to mobilize their cities for God's global purpose throughout the next decade.



Although the pandemic put a slight pause to this momentum, we renewed our vision in 2022, striving towards a “missionary decade” in Brazil. In 2023, Perspectives leaders joined forces with many other mobilization leaders and AMTB leadership to launch Initiative 2033. This national initiative challenges the Brazilian missions movement to prioritize sending missionaries to UPGs and work boldly to see thousands of Brazilian church planters released to the nations. We look forward with eyes of faith, longing to hear many more stories of those who go, send, and mobilize to the nations. May God fulfill his purpose through many ordinary Brazilian believers for the glory of his name. 

³ AMTB, “Research Report of the Brazilian Missionary Force” (São Paulo, 2022), 5.
amtb.org.br/forca-missionaria-brasileira-transcultural-2022/