

The University of Life

Mission

To provide a pathway out of poverty through quality education and training for members of impoverished communities in Brazil

Brazil is one of the most inequitable countries in the world. Millions live without proper access to education, health care, sanitation, water or land. In Brazil...

- Only 40% of the children who begin school will finish their primary education, 9% will graduate from high school and 6% will finish college
- 25% of people do not have electricity and 68% have no garbage collection
- 1 in 10 people in Brazil cannot read or write
- The public school system offers students only 4 hours of education per day and the education system was ranked 114th in a study of 125 countries
- Graduates of public high school obtain only the equivalent of a 7th grade education
- Over 150 people are violently murdered each day
- In a study of 15-year-olds, 75% of had difficulty reading and 61% scored below a critical level of science literacy
- 20% of all births in Brazil are to teenage mothers

The University of Life

The Executive Director, Marcondes Marques, was born in Fortaleza, Brazil and grew up with the reality of rich and poor on his doorstep. Though he came from a middle class family, Marc's best friends were from the favelas (Brazilian slums) and he noticed the differences in opportunity available to him compared with his friends.

Motivated by his faith in Jesus Christ and a heart to bestow dignity and worth on every child in Brazil, Marc has dedicated his life to finding effective and sustainable ways to bring opportunity to the poor, releasing their potential through quality education and training. In 1983, he established the program in Fortaleza that would eventually become the University of Life, which is an innovative, exciting and holistic program that offers a pathway out of poverty through quality education and training. We promote a comprehensive, holistic approach to education and training available to the entire community surrounding the University of Life campus. Detailed project descriptions available on request.

Primary School Education Program

Mission: *To inspire impoverished children to pursue a pathway out of poverty through quality education and training and provide them with an opportunity to pursue higher education and/or compete successfully in the job market*

Four additional hours of education each day to supplement the four hours of public school education provided by the Brazilian government. We offer homework assistance, principle education in core subjects and additional curriculum previously available only in private schools.

High School Education Program

Mission: *To offer students an educational program with enough tangible benefits to compete with the immediate need to contribute income to their families, and to provide students with the necessary tools to gain acceptance to and succeed in higher educational programs or obtain gainful employment in Brazil's competitive job market.*

A comprehensive supplement to public school education with all the components of the primary school program plus additional tutoring for university entrance exams and guidance with job seeking and higher education planning.

To learn more about program activities, please contact:

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The Channel is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1995. We are a Christian developmental organization with over 25 years of experience working with impoverished children and communities in Brazil.

Our vision is to train and equip the future leaders of Brazil by creating a pathway out of poverty for children through quality education and training. Our project in Fortaleza is CBC (Channel to Brazil for Christ) University of Life and is a non-sectarian institution open to children of any color, race or religion.

The Channel is funded by contributions from individuals and groups who passionately believe that by working together we can improve the lives of children living in poverty, one child at a time.



Foundation for Life Higher Education Program

Mission: *To support and mentor University of Life secondary school graduates through the university or vocational training of their choice, launch them into careers and guide them into positions of leadership in their communities.*

Supported students receive help in choosing appropriate courses of study, regular mentoring and review sessions, access to University of Life resources (teachers, computers, library, Internet, etc.) and a scholarship for the full cost of attendance.

Beyond Academics

Mission: *To offer holistic care—mind, body and spirit—for all students and to offer them justice, dignity and healing.*

The project strives to meet students' physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs through a wide variety of programming including physical education, the arts, information technology, prayer and Bible teaching, weekly chapel services, lay counseling and mentoring, health, sports, a safe environment, a daily meal and unlimited access to clean water.

The Arts: Dance, Theater and Music

Mission: *To offer quality exposure to and education in the arts to children living in poverty, provide a safe outlet for dealing with the frustrations of life, create a venue for cultivating creative expression and development, engage the children more actively in their education, and furnish a quality, holistic educational experience.*

Dance, theater and music lessons are part of the required curriculum for all University of Life students. There are also opportunities for participation in outreach and performance groups in all three categories.

Information Technology Program

Mission: *To offer students a fully integrated IT program that supports general classroom work, challenges and develops logic and problem solving capabilities and enhances overall competency and knowledge of basic computing skills and software*

IT classes are required curriculum for all enrolled students and are part of the weekly rotation of classes.

Christian Teaching, Outreach and Spiritual Support

Mission: *To offer dignity, grace and healing through modeling the love of Jesus Christ to students, families and the community, provide students with opportunities to serve in practical ways, and to train and equip the next generation of Christian leaders in Brazil and to give them opportunities to share and develop their faith through missions and discipleship*

Activities include the Mission Bus (full-sized bus with traveling stage for performances and community education and outreach), the JVC missions and discipleship program, weekly chapel services, Women's Community Support Group, spiritual support and Bible teaching, and lay counseling and mentoring.

Unicyber Internet Café

Mission: *To offer computing resources and printing services to the community, employment opportunities for the students and a source of sustainable funding for the school*

Unicyber is an Internet café located at the University of Life and open to the public. In addition to computer and Internet access, we offer an accredited IT training course, basic printing and photocopy services and CD/DVD burning.

Community Life Center

Mission: *To build a multi-purpose structure that will provide storage and classroom space and serve as a safe, dry, shaded place for physical activity, sports and play, both for the community and students and to utilize the structure as a meeting facility, performance venue, radio station and training center that will be an asset and source of pride for the community*

The Community Life Center is currently in construction phase and will be a covered 13,000+ square foot multipurpose gymnasium with a performance stage, classroom space, storage capabilities and bathroom facilities.

Our Results

- 2000 hours of education each year--24 extra hours of classes weekly for each child
- 22 students have finished high school, the first in their community. 8 of them are now in college, 3 in technical college and the rest have found better jobs
- Children from the program are noted for their character, leadership and great behavior
- Children have improved self-esteem as they discover they can learn
- Education is more greatly valued in the community
- Our young people have great character and leadership skills
- We inspire the community with weekly and monthly events
- Our students produce music, dance and theater for everyone to enjoy
- We inspire and support parents to help strengthen their families
- We train our staff and volunteers and reward our students with certificates