

University of Life Christian Teaching, Outreach & Spiritual Support

Mission

1. To offer dignity, grace and healing through modeling the love of Jesus Christ to University of Life students, their families and the community.
2. Provide students with opportunities to serve their community in practical ways and share their faith with others.
3. To train and equip the next generation of Christian leaders in Brazil

Background

Life in the impoverished favela (Brazilian slum) is difficult, stressful and often emotionally and spiritually devastating. Violence is widespread and most children are exposed to some form of abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual or substance. Economic opportunities are limited or nonexistent so obtaining even the most basic necessities becomes difficult, if not impossible. With the immense daily pressures, it is not surprising that so many people seek out drugs, alcohol, sexual promiscuity or violence to escape the harsh realities of the favelas.

However, we understand that true freedom and fulfillment come from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and that the Bible shows us how to restore dignity and self worth. We want to provide the entire community with a safe, nonjudgmental environment to ask questions, experience healing, receive teaching and feel valued. We use Biblical principles of self respect, family and justice to guide and support the community we serve and seek to share the gospel in the way that Christ asked, "They will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (*John 13:35*). Our Christian values are offered and not imposed. Our programs help children avoid the temptations that surround them, help them deal with frustration, teach forgiveness and unconditional love and give them the faith and self-confidence they need to tackle the difficult situations they face.



Our program activities include:

- Surrounding each child with Christ's love
 - Hiring loving, Christian staff who encourage individuals to ask spiritual questions, challenge the cultural norm and seek the truth
 - Daily classroom devotionals based on a monthly theme
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- Special performances for Christmas and Easter to proclaim the gospel
 - Confidential lay spiritual and emotional counseling available for students and parents by academic staff—small class size allows teachers to know students on a deeper level and act as a mediator between parents and students
 - Opportunities for students to share their faith in a practical way through community outreach and social service

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.



- Weekly chapel services for students
- **“Super Saturdays”**—a monthly, community-wide activity day that offers a biblical foundation for the academic theme of the month and provides a way to connect the mind and the spirit.
- **“The Open Group”**—weekly evening service for the community
- **Women’s Community Support Group**—a network that supports parents and community members living in the favela. Each week the group chooses a topic (domestic violence, parenting skills, health and hygiene, etc.) and invite a local professional who volunteers to give a talk on the subject. For the following two weeks the theme is continued, looking at Bible teaching, sharing concerns, and worshipping and praying together.
- **JVC (Youth with the Vision of Christ)**—Three age-based missions and discipleship programs involving 60 young people
- **The Mission Bus**—a traveling facility for outreach through theater, dance and music. The bus works in partnership with local churches to connect new believers and seeking individuals with a source of teaching and support.



Vision for the Future

We want to expand our current programs to include greater outreach services to the community by:

- Holding youth conferences
- Hosting church leadership conferences and retreats
- Employ a full time couple to run the missions program and discipleship training
- Open a community radio station to offer biblical teaching, health and hygiene messages and Christian music



How can I help?

- Commit to supporting us through daily prayer
- Bring a group of young people to Brazil and partner with our students to help with missions work and evangelism
- Travel to Brazil to conduct training for church leadership and discipleship
- Donate funds to help with ongoing costs of our current programming