



# *The Journey*

A Beautiful Walk  
to the Promised Land

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# *Preface*

## **Partners In The Kingdom**

Jesus, when He gave us what we call the great commission, told us to go into all the world to teach and preach His Gospel. In my understanding, this WORLD starts next door. It starts in the next town, the next state, the next country, the next hemisphere. If new planets are found that contain life, that is also part of the Universe created by God. He desires that the redemption message spread everywhere!

In 2010. My family and I moved to Itarema,

Ceara, a very small town in Northeast Brazil. Previous to our move, I had met Cesar at a conference in Brazil and was intrigued by his plan to start house churches in that area. For me, having been a missionary in my own country (Brazil), starting churches in 4 different states, always with the pattern of church buildings, I found this new possibility very exciting!

Cesar, along with his wife Cristina and their young son Jonas, were well advanced into this model upon our arrival in Itarema. What a joy to see a young couple with such a fervor and vision, using their own resources and professional skills to develop such a ministry! For me, a seasoned missionary, this was exciting, to see such dedication from a young couple. Using their medical skills and desire to serve people and sharing the Gospel with them was amazing. I

learned so much from them.

Not many in the Kingdom have the missionary “bug” to go places away from home, away from family, from comforts, to the insecurity of the unknown. It was not easy in that part of the country. Together, we went to very poor communities, across another State, where we slept on the floor or hammocks. There we were even animals among us! For me, a city boy, it was exciting to be a part of this new effort that I hadn't seen before among traditional mission works. They felt completely natural among the most destitute. Their passion to serve the Lord in difficult social and economical locations is an example for many new generations of workers in the Kingdom. I know it was for me.

In their new plans for the future, following the

same pattern and example, I know they will learn a lot and will serve as a guide for many in the future. We need missionaries in the big cities, small towns and especially among those forgotten and still untouched by the Good News of Jesus Christ. Cesar ,Cristina and Jonas (now a young Christian man) are a team that will advance Jesus' return to this earth. They have vast experience in this field of work and their medical skills are an amazing tool to be used for this ministry

I'm excited to see what they will accomplish in this challenging new door that the "Macedonian" is opening for them. I know, if New Worlds are discovered,they will be ready to go there. Everything is possible for those who want to serve the Lord!

Al de Mello

# *Dedication*

To those who have taught me so much:  
My mother Cristina,  
for every day we fought to grow together.  
My beloved grandmother Cassia,  
for her story in fighting for the cause of Christ.  
My great great-grandmother Elizabete,  
for being a great christian influence.  
My father Cesar,  
for his faith and love for Christ.

*-Jonas Garcia Rodrigues*

# *False Suture*

-Cesar Emanuel Rodrigues

I left my profession a few years ago, but it never left me. Working with healthcare is a gift, which is never lost, especially when you love what you do or have done it all your life.

Here's a quick story about a False Suture.

We were in Central America, where we currently live. On a Sunday, day of worship, I was invited to preach in a very simple community in the interior of Panama, far from the big city, and after the service we went by boat across a lake that connected the church to a community of people



on the other side. It was more isolated there, with no electricity and no roads, and the nearest medical service was in the neighboring town, 50 km away by car, still having to return by boat to the other side of the lake.

So when I was called to see this young woman with a bloody face, after cutting her forehead with a piece of wood, we had two options: take her to a hospital or do something there, on the spot.

Soon came memories of the old days of my work, providing more than 20 years of healthcare service to the population as a nurse and pharmacist.

The solution was to make the so-called false



suture, and you can already see the final result after 8 days.

My most important job in this community was to talk about how to preach the gospel and this mission of ours. That's exactly why me and my wife left our professions, with Cristina, my wife, having left the long and difficult career of a doctor. All this has a greater good, which is taking care of



the health of the soul. If it is healed from sin, it leaves a definitive result, for eternal life. Already in our career, what we were doing was to alleviate and delay what is irremediable; life in this mortal body that will return to dust. As responsible and careful as a human being may be, he is limited to

a life span of seventy to ninety years of age, maybe even a little longer. The truth is that from an early age, with each passing day, we are dying, and our lives will only make sense if we live with a greater purpose, to be reborn to true life, the new spiritual life, which even with the failure of multiple organs culminating in a cardiorespiratory arrest, the end is just the beginning of a full life, as the soul will be healed by the blood of the lamb to live immortally in the heavenly kingdom, with a new form and new life. This makes perfect sense to those who, by faith, come to this full knowledge of God's great love for us, and His plan of redemption for all mankind. Our life here is surrounded by occasional joys, rare moments of brilliance, successes and failures; but, though it is well lived, the vast majority of people are full of great struggles, challenges and frustrations. We have to kill a lion

a day to live, and many struggle to survive.

What about the sad end of many of us, with pain, fatigue, old age, illness, and/or death. It seems that our Father in Heaven is not like Santa Claus, who even if we don't deserve it, gives us presents. It would be very unfair to think of this simple and sad end in store for all of us. But God has different plans for each of us. He has already outlined his plans even before our existence. It wouldn't make much sense for the people to not want to know what those plans would be. We've struggled to talk to people about this, but it's amazing to see how people are focused on what's seen, and what's for today.

The future belongs to God, and we don't want to be occupied with things that aren't to supply or massage our ego, and keep our own interests! It's absolutely selfish. Living to serve someone is crazy!

To love God and your neighbour is a crazy thing!  
I just want to love myself, and if I have any time left, I'll have enough work to help my close family, or at best a friend who loves me very much.

Loving an unseen God, and an enemy who does not value you, is complete insanity. Who has time to throw it away!? That's why our flesh is constantly at war with our spirit, because deep down we have this priority, to look after our own interests, and then see the rest. Our decision may not seem very wise, at the height of our professional careers, to leave everything to serve the Lord, preaching the gospel, revealing what awaits us in eternity. The good news is that we must open our eyes now, to be aware of this spiritual reality, and surrender to Christ in fulfilling the Father's plan for us through Jesus. Speaking of Him, it seems that it would make no sense for Jesus to have died on the cross if our future was

already guaranteed, that is, we would already be saved, because we would all be children of God and God would not be so cruel and would give entry to all who knock on heaven's door. But the Scriptures have already left a clear example, as in the times of Noah, who preached, and preached, but no one heard his warning, and so, only his family was saved from the great flood. In the same way Jesus came once, left evidence of the existence of God dying, being buried and resurrected, overcoming death to prove that there is another side; the beyond, or the life to come.

He appeared to many witnesses and went to Heaven, but one day he will come back to rescue us. That's what I'm preaching right now, and few are concerned: If the Lord comes back today, how will I be for this meeting?

Matthew 7:21-23 warns us that many are talking about the Lord, even doing special things in His

name, but the most special is being despised, which is obedience to the Father's will in heaven. Jesus with all the authority of the Father said to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20), and in the gospel of Mark 16:15-16 it is said: Go, preach the gospel to every creature, whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...

God's expressed will is here:

To believe and then be baptized, to be saved.

Have you thought about it?

What was your experience like when you believed and asked to be baptized to wash away your sins?

The order is clear: **Believe!**

Then be **baptized!**

Thus, we become saved disciples, and we will continue to be taught the way to follow our master Jesus.

Do I want to be saved or not?

Am I ready to make this decision and obey this call? I, Cesar, have already made my decision, I came to **believe** and immediately I was **baptized**, for the forgiveness of my sins because I am a sinner. My life would make no sense without this commitment to obedience. Having studied so much, going to two universities and speaking three languages, having already lived in various parts of the world and having lived a successful professional career, does not give me any privileges to be saved. If I don't obey, I'll be in the same situation as in Matthew 7:21-23, where they said: Lord we've done this and that, but the Lord will say: I don't know you, simply because I wasn't able to do the simplest: **believing** and being



**baptized** for the sake of salvation, a direct order. See, I wasn't a bad person, I even consider myself -because of the services I held helping people- that I did a lot of good deeds. But salvation does not come by works, but by the grace of God, through Christ.

**Believe in the lord Jesus, don't delay, be baptized, to wash your sins by the blood of the lamb.**

This was the **order** given by Jesus to all who want to fulfill the **will of God**.

We left from a false point to a crucial and true point, that point cost a high price, because Jesus died in our place to give us life.

The Righteous died for a sinner, like you and me. Do not let that sacrifice for your life be in vain.

# ***Purpose of the Walk***

-Jonas Garcia Rodrigues

All of us who start a walk with Christ have many challenges and we should learn from the beginning that we are the disciples of the path, and that the Church is us, the ones on this journey. It is not a place, but people following Christ.

It's not about going to church, it's about being the church.

To be a people, the Family of God.

On this enchanted journey, from its start to the finish of a long walk.

An unforgettable experience that we had was the day we literally slept with the pigs. We were in the middle of the hinterland of Piauí on a mission trip we did once a month to preach the word of God. We were with two other brothers who had stayed in another community to preach and we went to the farthest part of our trip.

This time we decided to sleep using our camping tent and the chosen location was in front of a brother's house under a large tree, as it seemed a very safe place with no vegetation around. The soft sand floor was clean and the tree was a natural shelter in case of storm, rain, wind, etc.

We prepared the place and set up the camp. It was a beautiful day and we had already walked a lot so that when going to bed, tiredness would bring us a good night's sleep. Normally on these

trips we take hammocks to sleep on, this being the common way to sleep in this region, the use of beds is not normal. But we had the tent and it was our home and bed for tonight. In the middle of the night I felt a little thirsty but I decided to wait until dawn so as not to disturb the people in the house by asking for water, and so we spent the night in our tent. The ground was not hard because it was soft sand and soon the night was cool and could get cold at dawn, but that was not what happened. I felt comfortable and warm. At dawn we felt something soft sleeping with us outside the tent and it just positioned itself so that it touched our backs.

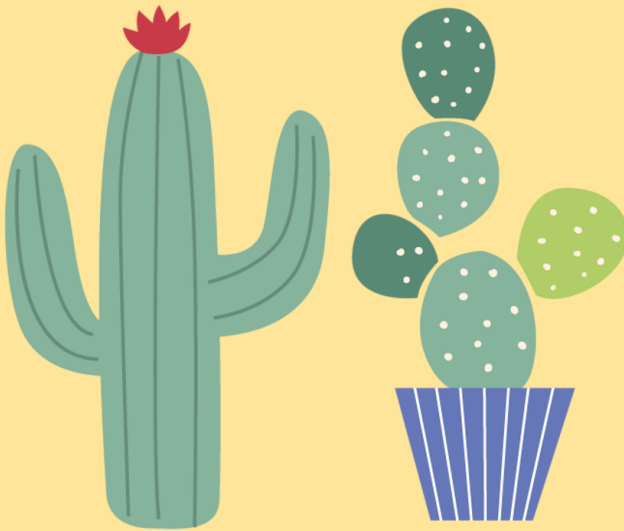
At sunrise we got up to see that it was a mama pig and many little pigs that were sleeping there and warming us up. Later, chickens came as the brother left corn in that area for them to eat in the

morning. So we woke up among the animals, it reminded me of the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph had to spend the night in a stable together with the animals.

This place was where the brother there began to join a Church that meets today in Tucuns.

Now let's use some of the poetic language of the famed cordel literature to talk about this journey.

# *The Cordel*



Cordel literature is a very strong cultural expression in Brazilian culture, especially in the northeastern

regions of Brazil. Brought by the Portuguese in the 18th century. Surrounded by good humor and poetic language, which gives us that pleasant taste in reading and reciting its verses.

They were tied to ropes, strings, or twine to sell at fairs. They were rhymed poems also sung by Improvisators and guitar players.

This culture is marked by its simple and objective



way of telling  
a story in  
small  
publications  
that are very  
accessible to  
everyone, so

that everyone can read and enjoy this popular culture.

Would it be possible to translate poetry? The answer is no, as it is not a question of knowing the meaning of the words, but rather of their order and musicality within each verse in each stanza. In general, poetry is not translatable with its full

literary value. A poet's language cannot be translated into another language; you can translate what they meant, but not what they said. Of course, what they said in their language will be lost while translating to any other.





# *The Journey*

*A jornada iniciada  
Saída comemorada  
mas se cuide no caminho  
para não perder a chegada  
Como podemos esquecer,  
essa doce jornada*

*The journey started  
Celebrated departure  
but take care on the path  
not to miss the arrival  
How could we forget,  
this sweet journey*

*Nessa doce jornada  
duvidamos e caímos,  
Como podemos esquecer,  
quase nos sucumbimos,  
sem desistir seguimos,  
Pois a Ele ouvimos*

*In this sweet journey  
we doubted and fell,  
How could we forget,  
we almost succumbed,  
without giving up we go on,  
for to him we listen*

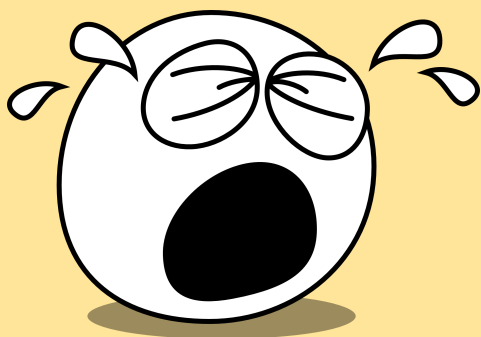


*quando ouvimos Sua voz  
as dores suportamos,  
Não se pode esquecer,  
as batalhas que travamos,  
nessa doce jornada,  
dias de alívio passamos.*

*Caímos e levantamos,  
passamos tristeza e temor,  
Como podemos esquecer  
do seu sangue e da dor  
meu Jesus Cristo na cruz,  
a jornada do salvador*

*when we hear your voice  
the pains we bear,  
it cannot be forgotten,  
the battles we fight,  
in this sweet journey,  
days of relief we passed.*

*We fall and rise,  
we experience sadness and  
fear,  
how could we forget  
of the blood and pain  
my Jesus Christ on the cross,  
the savior's journey*

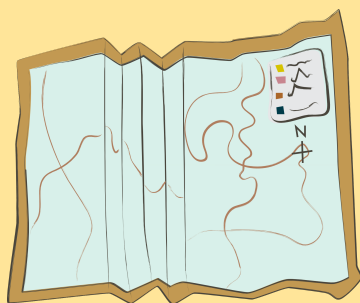


*Trajetória feliz,  
pode ser mapeada  
Todo esforço empregado,  
Terminará na chegada  
Como posso esquecer,  
essa doce jornada.*

*Our happy trajectory,  
must be mapped  
Every effort put in,  
will end on arrival  
How could we forget,  
this sweet journey.*

*O trajeto findado  
da luta trabalhada,  
com o Mestre ao lado  
suas pegadas marcadas,  
Como posso esquecer,  
essa doce jornada.*

*the finished path  
of the worked fight,  
with the master by the side  
his footprint marked,  
How could we forget,  
this sweet journey.*



O Senhor oprimido  
No madeiro **cravado**,  
seu caminho cumprido  
meu Senhor **condenado**  
meus pecados lavados  
Nele fui batizado.

the Lord oppressed  
In the carved wood,  
his way fulfilled  
my doomed lord  
my sins washed away  
in him I was baptized.

Tudo foi consumado,  
e enfim **liberdade**  
o caminho findado  
tenho paz, **felicidade**  
Como posso esquecer,  
essa grande **bondade**.

Everything was finished,  
finally freedom  
walk finished  
I have peace, happiness  
How could I forget,  
this great goodness.



*A promessa de Cristo,  
logo ao fim na chegada,  
pros que têm liberdade,  
uma coroa alcançada.*

*Como vou esquecer,  
a jornada dourada.*

*Com toda a humildade,  
não desprezo a chegada,  
dos desafios enfrentados  
nessa grande caminhada,  
com atenção vou viver  
essa doce jornada.*

*The promise of Christ,  
right at the end on arrival,  
for those who have freedom,  
a crown was reached.*

*How could I forget,  
the golden journey.*

*In all humility,  
don't despise the arrival,  
of the challenges faced,  
on this great journey,  
carefully I will live  
this sweet journey.*



# *A Beautiful Walk*

Sem igual nova **vida**,  
meu Senhor conhecer,  
amizade quer**ida**,  
Sentimento de prazer.

Without equal new life,  
my Lord to know,  
friendship dear,  
Feeling of pleasure.

Minha vida perd**ida**  
Dela nao vem saud**ade**  
já se foi desped**ida**  
agora só santid**ade**

my lost life  
I don't miss  
already been parted  
now only holiness

Do meu Rei tenho apre**ço**,  
pelo amor demonstr**ado**  
por amar me sem pre**ço**  
meus pecados lav**ados**

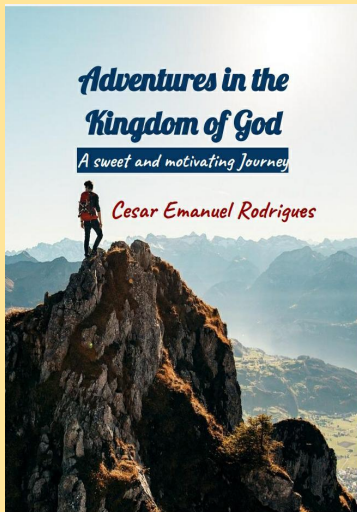
My King I appreciate,  
for the love shown  
for loving me without price  
my sins washed away

# *Promised Land*

E o sonho de uma <b>vida</b> ,	It's the dream of a lifetime,
longo voo alcanç <b>ar</b> .	long flight will reach.
Nossa terra promet <b>ida</b> ,	Our promised land,
quero longe avist <b>ar</b> .	I want to see far away.

Um prazer sem med <b>ida</b>	A pleasure beyond
poderei desfrut <b>ar</b> .	measure
A cidade per <b>ida</b> ,	I will be able to enjoy.
onde quero mor <b>ar</b> .	the lost city,
	where I want to live.

Pra alguns	
desconhec <b>ida</b> ,	It may be unknown,
até a muitos assust <b>ar</b> .	even to many scare.
Mas direi, minha <b>vida</b> ,	But I will say, my life,
Aqui mesmo vou fic <b>ar</b>	right here I will stay



in our mission and we ask that you continue to support us with your prayers and if you want to be a partner in helping our missions you can visit the website:

<https://worldmissionsevangelism.com/rodrigues/>



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In this book our objective was to bring a small piece of our Journey, so you can see more in the larger book: *Adventures in The Kingdom of God*. We are grateful to everyone who has supported us



Cesar & Cristina Rodrigues  
Latin America