



Asas de Socorro

Wing of Mercy



Recap: Wednesday, around 2:00 AM, the American mission team of eight from Woodridge Community Church in WI came to Brazil. Thursday we all got up bright and early and went out to the village where our Asas de Socorro, Wings of Mercy, mission base is. We ministered there as a mission and with the team for two days. Saturday we shopped for hammocks and every thing necessary for our trip to the interior of the state to minister in a river village. Tonight, Sunday, Wilson will be preaching and the team will be sharing testimonies. Right after the service we will head straight for the boat and begin our twelve hour trip to a village called Botafogo.

Mission Team Update

After the team shared in our Sunday night service and Wilson preached, we all hopped on the Hello Pastor van and went straight to the boat. (We took all the luggage, food and supplies for the trip to the boat Sunday afternoon.) We held a short meeting, had team devotions, put up our hammocks and settled down for the night. Well, as settled as you can be with the wind sweeping over and underneath you, the hammocks swaying back and forth with mosquito nets overhead and the boat rocking gently and "chugging" up river for seven hours.

We stayed in the small village town of Manacapuru until the main pastor arrived early in the morning and travelled with us three more hours to the village of Botafogo where the church was being built. During those three hours we arranged all the suitcases with school supplies, candies, toothbrushes, paste, decorative hair accessories, small toys and beanie babies and began the "bagging". This is where we take ziplock bags and make "goodie" bags for all the children, youth and parents of the village. We also separate supplies for the local school and the church (pens, pencils, sharpeners, notebooks, rulers, etc.)



The first day in the village, the men went right to work on the church, and we women went door to door visiting the homes in the village, evangelizing (using the evangecube) and inviting every one for the activities on the following day.

Tuesday, our team and everyone in the village met at the local social center (normally an open place, with cement floor, a roof and walls only waist high.) There

one of the team members shared the Gospel through a wonderful object lesson using visuals, and I translated. It was simple, easy to understand, to the point and tremendously effective. God spoke to the hearts of everyone there! We sang songs while another team member was cutting hair in the back corner of the center so no one would lose out on the message of God's love.



That afternoon, we invited them all back for a seminar on dental hygiene and all the kids from twelve and under received a fluoride treatment. (We were fortunate on this trip to be ministering to a village where the people live right next to where the school is and where the church was being built and NOT across the river where they have to paddle in by canoe.) After the seminar, part of the team took the children to the school to show them some Bible cartoons, and I translated for another member of the team who shared her testimony and a wonderful message with all the ladies. We all bonded as we hugged and cried and learned how much God loves and cares for each one of us. It was precious for two ladies of the team to share a song with these village ladies and have all the ladies sing to them a heartfelt message in return!

There were eight American mission team members and this was one of the largest villages that we ever ministered to (about 400 people). It was difficult, challenging, a lot of work, but that much more rewarding!! The longer we stayed (three days) and the harder we worked...the more tired we got and the louder we snored! ☺ God blessed us with heavenly weather. It rained mostly when we were done for the day or on the boat for a meal. God also blessed with great health (except a few unsettled stomachs) and safety (no one got hurt in the village or on the construction sight). **God answered your prayers 100% and more.**

Wednesday, I shared the Bible message with the villagers in the morning, and then we divided up into teams. Some helped out with the "Bazaar" (handing out used clothes, etc., to each family in the village), another gal took care of the "nursery" (about 80 small children), another tried to make a craft with the teenage girls, and a team member and I played organized games with the 7-11 year olds (80). We handed out stew to all the villagers for lunch on both days. The team also took poloroid pictures of each family for them to keep.



Late in the afternoon, everyone gathered at the church which now was almost done, with floor, roof, walls, windows and electricity (lighting). The only thing missing was the front of the church and the wood that is nailed inbetween the boards since the wood was not dry enough. For two hours we held a celebration service and dedicated the new church for the honor and glory of God. The pastor received Bibles for the

families that will be going to his church, the *Book of Life* for help with their Sunday School and about sixty Sunday School Visuals (large pictures of Bible stories). The pastor and his wife also received a special Bible of their own.

Through it all about nineteen children and four adults gave their lives to Christ and will now be followed up and discipled by the pastor and his wife at the church. God is a God of miracles, and every time someone trusts in Christ it is the greatest miracle of all.



God worked other miracles among us. There is one lady from the village that is a Christian and prayed for one year for God to build a church in Botafogo. The village had no means to build this church or purchase materials and supplies, so she along with two other women from another village began praying for a church. Serving God involves sacrifice and these ladies prayed at

3:00 AM each day for several months for God to give them a church. A pastor of another area was already training a man to pastor the church.

As Wilson flies over the jungle he often prays that God will show him where to build churches and where to do ministries. He felt led to ask the main church in town if they could chose the village of Botafogo to build a new church. The people in the village trusted God to work a miracle, and after several months they received the news that a foreign mission team would be coming to Brazil, providing all the materials and building the church along with them! God chose a mission team from Woodridge Church in WI to answer the prayers of these three women and two pastors! He also used one Christian man from the village to donate all the logs for the church from his piece of land. We often see God moving in wonderful ways to bless His people!

We praise God for His many blessings, for sending American mission teams to work with us and minister and bless thousands of people in the interior of the Amazon and lead them to Christ! We praise God for each of you, for going with us in prayers and support and for trusting God with us to do great things among the people here. May God continue to use us all for His honor and glory!

In a couple of weeks, our March Prayer letter will be coming to you with our furlough agenda, what God has done since the beginning of the year and during 2007 through your prayers and support of us and the Asas de Socorro (Wings of Mercy) ministries. Please take note of the telephone number we send you so you can get in touch with us if you wish.

God Bless and have a wonderful week!

Lori, Wilson and family

