



Asas de Socorro

Reaching, Assisting and Transforming Lives Through Aviation and Social Development

We have been super busy (more Wilson right now) with mission meetings and ministries (mostly lots of flights). The leaders of our mission gathered together for five days in Manaus to talk about future goals, strategies, ministry expansion, finances, etc. Wilson is Operations Manager and on the board, so he met along with all the other leaders from early morning until late evening. I almost felt like Wilson was on a five day flight instead of just downstairs! I spent part of that week helping out with breakfasts and baking snacks. (In God's Word it says to honor your leadership and it was such a blessing to serve them.) The mission and its ministries are growing, and we praise God for that. Winds of change are blowing, and there may be some major changes ahead, especially for us.



The Manaus base is more established now; new co-workers are arriving and needing to develop their gifts, and Wilson and I may be asked to help establish yet another flight base in Santaem (which would also mean a major move). We are praying and trusting God to know what He wants, but we also need your prayers and input. This is not an easy decision for us or the mission. If we are sent to Santaem, it would probably be sometime before April. As far as mission groups coming to Brazil, we would probably still be in Manaus for the first group our two. Other groups would have three options: making arrangements with Gloria and using her boat, going to Santaem and ministering with us there or using our mission boat and working with our staff in Manaus.

Wilson has always been more of a pioneer missionary, paving the way for new ministries and new workers. It would be very hard to leave Manaus after ministering here for fifteen years, but we have made many moves in our mission career (six major moves and several minor ones) and have seen and experienced God expand His work throughout the Amazon. We are called to obey and our desire is to go where He wants us and do His perfect will. We have set some very deep roots in Manaus, but we are not to take hold of earthly things but focus on the heavenly.

We will also need to trust God to show us whether or not Wilson should continue as Flight Operations Manager over our six mission bases, member of the board and still have full responsibility of establishing a new ministry base. We would be basically starting over again. Right now, we have faced some very difficult situations because sometimes Wilson's positions have overlapped with positions of other missionaries here in Manaus, and it has made it hard to know who is boss over whom. In all of this, Wilson has been very aware and sensitive to my needs and knows that now that my folks are gone and our kids are far from home, we need to cultivate our relationship and work more together. Until now, he has been chief pilot and in leadership which requires constant travel. We also need time to visit our "kids" and still maintain family ties!

The good thing is our mission is more unified than ever, striving towards one mind, one spirit even though we have several ministry bases throughout Brazil. The meetings they just had started out with two full days of prayer and soul searching, devotionals, etc., seeking unity--in particular to know what is best before God for the mission as a whole, not just for each individual base. Please pray with us that we will follow God's direction in peace and harmony, that we will know what it is He wants. God called us into missions on a full time basis. We still feel convicted to serve God with our lives and remain faithful to that calling!

Just this last month God confirmed once again why we are here. We serve two very dear veteran missionary women (Katarina and Judith) who have worked close to forty years translating the Bible into the Apurina Indian language. Now that they are older, they go into the tribe periodically to review and revise texts. In this particular tribe, malaria is ever present and a threat to their health. They just recently had two more bouts of malaria (which would make that more than thirty-five times each)! These women know that their lives are at risk, and yet they also know that God will not take them home until they accomplish the task He has set before them. Their heart's desire is to finish the translation of the Old Testament. Wilson flew a plane load of New Testaments into their tribe in 2005, and there was a huge celebration then.

Since Wilson is not able to fly them directly to the tribe (river too narrow and too many rocks), he flies them to a beach area, flying over the tribe on the way. When the Indians see the plane they hop into dugout canoes to pick up the women. Wilson waits on the beach with them until the Indians arrive and then these missionaries travel up river for another hour to reach the tribe. On this particular trip, there were only two children paddling the canoe to pick up the women. When they asked where the men or other people were, they were told that everyone else in the tribe was sick with malaria! Katarina and Judith are dedicated to obeying God's calling and spreading His Word. They went ahead with their trip, were able to take in life saving medicine for the tribe and continue to risk their lives for the cause of the Gospel. What a joy it is to serve them and help them accomplish the task God has given them!

We often support missionaries and do flights and maintenance during holidays, over weekends, etc. Manaus is a huge city with practically no outlet to go to other towns and cities, and even those that are close don't offer much in the way of activity and such. Once a year we have a mini retreat/conference for three days and this year each flight base in north Brazil held their own separate retreat. I was on the planning committee along with two other women, and we had an awesome time learning what it means to serve joyfully, participating in sweet fellowship with our co-workers and renewing our strength to carry out our ministries.

The end of this week, Wilson will be flying for an evangelistic clinic trip sponsored by Asas de Socorro. The coordinators from our mission staff, Wilson, the co-pilot and the team of medical/dental professionals will be ministering in several river villages along the Unini River for four days. Continue to pray for God to meet not only physical needs but spiritual needs as well and that their hearts would be open to His Word and His Love.

Joshua, Julie and Jessica are doing very well. They have started a new school year--Joshua's last at College of the Ozarks and Julie's first (as a junior) at St. Francis School of Nursing in Peoria, IL, Jessica as a sophomore at C of O. They are somewhat overwhelmed to know all they must accomplish before the end of the year but are facing their classes, studies, tests and homework head on. They are counting the days and weeks until they head for Brazil at the end of the year to spend some time with us and family in south Brazil when we will be having a very short furlough. It's been around three years that Joshuas hasn't been home and around two and one-half for the girls!

We all want to thank you so much for your love and prayers. Thank you for trusting God with us for His will concerning our future!

*Love and Hugs,
The Kannenbergs
Wilson, Lori, Joshua, Julie and Jessica*

Be sure to read the testimony on the next page!

Sept. 4th, Barak, the nine year old boy of this missionary family became very ill. The family lives in an Indian tribe that Asas de Socorro assists with flights. Many of the Indians were already sick when their son came down with a cold and severe cough. After twelve years on the mission field serving in this jungle tribe called Parimi-U, they called an emergency flight for the first time to attend their personal needs. This is what they shared:

“Once again we are deeply grateful for the ministry of Asas De Socorro (Wings of Help). Year after year this mission has offered us safe and accessible transportation necessary to support life and ministry in places that are so isolated like this.”

Barak suffered from a serious case of pneumonia in both lungs and had one other serious problem. After reaching the hospital, his fever and shortness of breath increased until almost fatal, but in God’s timing, the antibiotics began working and he now at home and is fully recovered!



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