Wilson and Lori Kannenberg



Wings of Help Ministries - Amazon, Brazil



Happy New Year!

The end of the year is always a time of renewal, some relaxation and reflection for us. Our Christmas activities began with a gathering and delicious (pot luck) dinner Dec. 8th with our mission staff before some had to travel (41 total). Wilson is the only pilot in Manaus right now and was "on call" during the holidays since

one pilot left for furlough and the other went home for the holidays. Even so, with rainy season here and

holiday activities, flights have slowed and we were able to attend 3 amazing Christmas cantatas, a special dinner with pastors and coordinators from our church area and celebrate Christmas dinner with the owner of the air taxi company where our mission plane is stationed and another with our staff.

We were so thankful for the invitation to spend Christmas Eve with the air taxi owner and his family. Cleiton and most of the members of his family do not know the Lord. God gave us the wonderful opportunity to share our testimonies, tell of miraculous ways God has worked through Asas ministries and witness of God's love and plan for them. Wilson was asked to "bless" the meal. Many seeds were planted.



Christmas day was a wonderful time of excellent food, fellowship and fun with mission staff that had no one else to celebrate with. One mission family and two single gals (10 in all) celebrated in our home for most of an afternoon. What was our Christmas dinner like?...Chester (cross between turkey and duck), meat wrapped around sausage, a special corn bread, mashed potatoes, farofa (manioc flour fried with sausage) over rice, waldorf salad (one of my contributions) and guaraná (Brazilian soda from a local fruit). Dessert was several kinds of cookies (again my contribution since this is mostly an American/European tradition) and pavê (a rich ice cream - like torte made out of sweetened condensed milk and chocolate sauce in layers.) We had fun playing games, talking and just being together. We were blessed to receive a turkey from one of our supporters and can't wait to have that on New Years!

Several of you asked if the kids came home for Christmas. We did not get to celebrate Christmas with our kids this year. They all have jobs and we will be together for Julie and Brandon's wedding May 21st followed by a short time of deputation visiting churches and supporters. It was very hard not having them here. With our recent move and all the mess of cleanup and unpacking I wasn't even in the mode to decorate. Five days before Christmas we finally got it together to put up the tree, decorate the house and think about this most special time of year and why we even celebrate. When we began to reflect on all Christ has done for us, we began to rejoice and ask God to use us to bless others. It was great having staff over and God allowed us to celebrate JESUS with our "kids" and be a very real part of their

Christmas through the internet! We got to see and talk to them often and they sent us lots of pictures, too. When we were in the USA in July we were able to make a surprise "care package" for each with a few Christmas ornaments, food items and other small gifts. (my sister's suggestion... Thanks for the great idea Patty!) They really wanted to come home, but God allowed Julie and Jessica to spend some days together and celebrate with family and Joshua and Leighann enjoyed a nice quiet Christmas on their own this year.

The end of the year is always a good time for reflection and Thanksgiving. Here are just a few of many blessings God gave us throughout the year. We praise God for your partnership with us through prayer, support and participation. These are your blessings and victories, too!

- Approval and implementation of the new governing structure of Asas de Socorro and election of new leaders and board members.
- Project SOS Mararí transporting 8 tons of food to an Indian tribe during the severe dry season.
- Approval of special student grants for missionary mechanics in training in the mission's Aeronautical Maintenance School. (Anápolis, Goiás, Mission headquarters)
- 6 new pilot/mechanics admitted into the Asas de Socorro flight school for training and several new missionaries sent to Asas mission bases throughout Brazil.
- Project "GO" in Santarém which was coordinated by Asas staff and involved a partnership with 80 volunteers evangelizing and providing health care in remote communities during their vacation time (July).
- Safety Seminar held in Manaus in August in partnership with other American organizations.
- Legalization of the Aeronautical Maintenance Shop in Manaus.
- Participation of mission staff in conventions, events and training seminars as well as giving seminars and planning events like the celebration of the mission's 55th Anniversary.
- 4 mission teams, 3 church constructions along with delivery of several water filters.
- 45 Clinic trips 148 professionals serving and evangelizing 127 communities with more than 6000 medical consultations and 8000 dental procedures and consultations.
- 83 seminars given on health, orality, training community leaders to teach the Christian reading and writing course we use for adults and others 1392 participants.
- The more than 1000 hours flown in our 6 mission bases throughout the year training students in the flight school, attending missionaries in Indian tribes and river villages and other ministry flights for churches, conferences, etc.
- And all of this without one incident that put any of our staff or collaborators at health risk or personal harm. We praise God for His safety and protection!

The end of this month, Wilson and I will go to south Brazil to celebrate his parent's Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 yrs). As soon as we return, we will be inaugurating the newly constructed barge of Operation Amazon that will facilitate delivery of water filters, church constructions, etc. The middle of February the first of 7 mission teams will come to build another church and deliver water filters. We are working on agendas and details for all 7 teams right now. Wilson will be flying and training pilots as well.

May God richly bless you and give you a wonderful New Year filled with His peace and purpose!

Wilson and Lori Kannenberg

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