

In the beginning of March, I had the awesome privilege of giving a basic workshop on the elements of a lesson plan and the preparation of a Bible Lesson for people interested in working with children. 28 people from various churches came all excited and ready to learn! Possibly in June I will be able to give a complete course and provide workshops periodically throughout the year to offer more in depth training for specific areas. I praise the Lord for each and every opportunity God gives me to serve Him and use the gifts He has given me.



Wilson and I have both been working side by side with Pr. Frank and his wife visiting the various churches preaching at night and demonstrating how to give Bible lessons to youth and adults using a Sunday School manual Sunday mornings. These churches don't have any kind of materials, visuals or manuals and we are trusting God to help us meet this need. (The new pastor made a copy of his manual).



The picture to the left shows the 18 year anniversary celebration that we attended at one of the little churches. It was so awesome to see the women's prayer group participating, the display of flags and the choreography done by the youth. What a joy to hear the praise and worship, listen to the messages and most of all the feel the presence of the Lord among us. These are very simple people who love the Lord with all their hearts and have dedicated their lives to Him. What an honor to minister together with them and serve them!

When you think you have seen everything, you learn something new. In the churches of Benjamin Constant we have found a very unique use for the cell phone. As we were sitting behind the pulpit waiting for Sunday school to begin, the young pastor turned on the speakers, set the microphone on the little shelf underneath the pulpit and placed his cell phone (that was playing praise music) next to the microphone. It sounded just as good as the best of any sound system and was a great way to welcome people to church!



This month we had a special event to celebrate International Women's Day. The theme was "Precious Pearls". Two hundred women gathered together to learn how valuable we are to God and how the most precious pearl of all is Jesus. There was an amazing and somewhat hilarious skit followed by a tremendous choreography presentation using the contemporary song "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus". Later the Vice Mayor was asked to say





(Vice Mayer and Wife) something in honor of women. When he got to the pulpit he surprised us all by sharing how he needed Christ... he and his family. Right there, in front of everyone, he trusted in Christ and declared Jesus as Lord of his life! We prayed with him, his wife and youngest son. You just never know when and where God will choose to reach out and draw someone to Himself! What an awesome evening. We were all so blessed. The women loved their handmade pearl bracelets, a special reminder of how valuable we are to God through Christ!



While I was helping with the women's celebration, Wilson was flying to one of the furthest Indian areas of the Javari Valley (1 ½ hr) with a Christian Mayor, the secretary of education and a Matis Indian. They visited 3 villages. After praying for so many years Wilson he was thrilled to finally go, but he learned very quickly that not even offering the help of water filters, wells, clinics, etc. can always open doors.

Lobo (Wolf) was the most difficult village. All the while the chief, **Misuma**, stood talking to the group, his warriors (+10) stood close by his side with their war paint and spears ready to defend if necessary. (Wilson was afraid to take pictures but someone else took one.) Young people from other organizations and a journalist were already there. They filled the Indians minds and hearts with accounts of all the damage missionaries and outsiders can do. At one point Wilson and the mayor were threatened verbally. Misuma spoke harshly to Wilson that he wanted nothing to do with missionaries or pastors. The journalist said point blank that the only reason we want to dig wells, etc. is to evangelize. This is only partly true.



Maioruna Indian Warriors from Lobo

We want to reach the whole person including their health and education. Wilson stood up to her gently but firmly letting her know he has been reaching out and helping Indians for 30 years and will continue to do so, that he does not need to defend himself but is a living testimony and example of bringing help to the Indians. He said she is more than welcome to talk to anyone throughout the Amazon about our work.

Wilson was glad I wasn't there. The Indians were agitated, somewhat aggressive in their speech and they do not value women. The atmosphere was very oppressive which was reflected in their faces and behavior. Wilson had lunch in one village and then in Lobo Misuma offered yet another meal. Wilson was literally stuffed but ate anyway so as not to make him angrier. What did they eat?... wild pig, deer, monkey, some wild bird and several other kinds of smoked wild meat. Later other Indians from the tribe came up to Wilson and told him they really want to have a well, etc. but that their chief will now allow it. Please pray for God to change Misuma's heart and allow us to go in and begin helping them. Pray also for the young people who represent different organizations here and have their idealism of protecting the Indians by keeping them isolated but are really doing nothing to bring them much needed help!

It is awesome to know we can count on your prayers and partnership to reach these people and bring them the help they so desperately need!

*God Bless,
Wilson and Lori*

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