

April, 2014



*Hi everyone! Many of you have said you really enjoy hearing about our life in Benjamin Constant, along the Javari River in the Amazon, Brazil.*

***Here are a few more snatches of what life is like in this part of the world...***

- Our little brick church has no doors, windows or ceiling. It can be a real challenge to pay close attention to the sermons at times. Most Sundays we can't help but observe and be amused at our friendly neighborhood rat (BIG) busily crossing back and forth along the top beam at the front of the church. One Sunday when Wilson was preaching, a huge bat flew circles behind him and did several low passes right over his head. I was sitting there wondering if he could feel the wind from its flapping wings. He later said he had no idea and didn't feel a thing!



 - Some victories are small but seem oh so big, silly but oh so sweet... Our kitchen is a large area in the back of our house. It has a roof and walls that go part way up with window like openings at the top. So basically, I cook "outside". A family of rats has been eating through our food containers, etc. We nailed the momma first (HUGE) with a rat trap for big rats. The next night we got two "babies" in one try! They were too light to snap the trap, but both got on it to eat the last of our peanut butter and WAP, three down and still at least two to go.



 - Time to go grocery shopping. Our car is still in the shop (8 mo.) so off we went on the motorcycle. We purchased veggies, ketchup and other misc. items and made our first trip home. On the next trip to town we picked up a pile of hotdogs for our wiener roast with the pastors and church leaders and took that home. Last but not least, Wilson went back for the eggs and bread! By the way, here in Brazil you don't get all your groceries in one place. Bread is purchased at the bakery, meat at the meat store, veggies can be found at the open market or little Peruvian shops and the rest can be found at the grocery store!

- The main means of transportation in Benjamin Constant is by motorcycle. It's an everyday event to see a family of four or five careening down the street, women sitting side saddle in wedding dresses, long gowns or Sunday attire on their way to church or special events or guys hauling a 500 liter water box, 10 plastic chairs... or transporting household appliances, etc. The picture on the right is the missionary family that partners with us in the ministries here... (Little Elliot, Richard (dad), Mariclene, Ashley (mom) and Reagan)



- When it rains, Wilson and I end up riding through town on the motorcycle with me in the back holding an umbrella over the two of us.



CLAP! No doorbells here.

- Want to let someone know you have arrived at their house?



The other day I went out to the living room to open the windows and thought I heard someone throwing up. It was LOUD. Ok, so I'm not a farm girl and soon discovered that it was a sheep bleating on the other side of the road... and this is in the middle of town! It made for a good laugh anyway. Some days we hear the squeals and squawks of enormous pigs being tied and transferred on the back of a motorcycle/truck (three-wheeler) to provide the main meal for someone's party.

**Day to day life in this 2-mile square town can be quite interesting and challenging to say the least!**

*Before heading to South Brazil for mission deputation and to visit family, we had a super busy weekend... Early Saturday morning, we went by canoe to a nearby island to dedicate a new church in Santa Luzia.*



*Wilson gave a short and inspiring message and then we all walked down to the river to baptize 13 believers...*



*God gave us wonderful weather and we had an amazing time celebrating together with fellow Christians.*

We returned to Benjamin, took a speed boat to Tabatinga, had our passports stamped and then took a small canoe across river to a little town called Santa Rosa where we got our passports stamped again for entry further into Peru. We then took another larger speed boat 5 hrs. up river to Cavalo Cocha, Peru arriving late Saturday afternoon. There was a short service that evening and Wilson was able to share from God's Word once again and encourage the Christians there.

At 2: 00 am, Wilson, a church leader from Benjamin and a few others travelled by canoe 5 more hours up river. Wilson said they rested on the wooden floor of the canoe but the winds were freezing and they only had one small tarp for protection. It was Sunday and they all welcomed another day of blessings with Christians in a river village called Álvaro where there is currently no pastor. Wilson dedicated 9 children and baptized 5 believers in the afternoon and performed a wedding ceremony for 8 couples in the evening...





*Alfaro is full and brimming over with children waiting and ready to learn about God and grow in His grace! Who's going to teach them about Jesus and tell them the Good News? Please pray with us that they will get a pastor soon.*

*There was no room for Corina and I on this trip so we stayed in Cavalo Cocha where I got to meet several members of Corinás family and church. After the wedding, at 10:00 pm, the group headed back to meet us in Cavalo Cocha. They slept a few hours and then we all left on the speed boat at 6:00 am to return to Letícia where we once again stamped our passport entry both in Peru and Tabatinga, Brazil. Finally we took the speed boat back to Benjamin. What an amazing, blessed weekend it was!*

*Well, we finally made it to South Brazil and love being with family and visiting friends, supporters and supporting churches. Thank you for upholding us in prayer during this busy time. Please continue to ask God to give us wisdom as we share in churches, Bible studies and homes. Our kids are almost on their way. They arrive in just a few days and we can't wait to enjoy some time together as a family after two long years! YEAH!! See us smiling?! ☺*

**We praise God for our children and their spouses.** It's been so awesome to see how God has been working in their lives, directing their steps and giving them such a deep love for Him. God has given them so many blessings and sustained them through trials. Here is a glimpse of what God is doing in their lives:

**Joshua** is Assistant Director of Front Desk Operations at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Minneapolis, MN. **Leighann** is Assistant Director of Finance Management at the Hilton. Joshua and Leighann love their church and are involved in ministry projects from time to time.

**Brandon** recently graduated from Bradley College in IL with a Bio molecular Chemistry Major and will begin nursing in the Fall. His credits will allow him to finish in 14 mo. After their time with us in Brazil he will be looking for a job that will allow him to attend classes and would appreciate your prayers. **Julie** was accepted for a new position at Saint Francis Hospital as a Neuroscience Intensive Care Clinical Educator which is a day position. She won't have to work weekends or holidays. She will be over 60 nurses and responsible for neuro education within the OSF system. She also recently took a certification test and passed. She is now a Stroke Certified Registered Nurse. They will be checking into more church and ministry options now that they are on a day schedule.

**Jessica** is a nurse on the Gastrointestinal floor at a hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ben is currently working as a substitute teacher and looking for a full time position. They would both appreciate your prayers about that and for God's direction as far as mission boards and ministries in the near future. They love ministering in their church.

We are the proud grandparents of two adorable and active grand PUPS: **Bebe**, belonging to Josh and Leighann and **Oliver**, belonging to Jessica and Ben.

**Praising God for the tremendous privilege of working together with you  
and representing you here in Brazil,**

**Wilson and Lori**

**Most recent family picture taken two years ago.**



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