

What a whirlwind of activities and exciting times we had this past month. The beginning of June we welcomed Jennifer and her son Lucas, from a supporting church in IL. They came to work with Pr. Edgardo and Corina in Islandia, Peru. Jennifer is helping Corina with her preschool and is looking into developing a program to provide healthy meals for the children. Lucas has been a tremendous help painting the mission boat! They are staying with us for several weeks.



Fred (team leader), Zach and his dad Pr. Ryan, Rich, Christy, Christine, Tim H., Tim S. and Collette

There is always a glitch in there somewhere and this was no exception. We were concerned about our water source for the trip. Jennifer blessed us with a little Sawyer water filter that enabled us to fill 22 large water bottles with pure water. The town ran out of gas bottles for the stove and Anna, a special friend down the street lovingly loaned us her full bottle! We were also very thankful to find good veggies and fruit downtown as well as meat and chicken (not always available.)

We were thrilled to have a team of nine from Faith Bible Church in WI, my home church of 34 years, send a team to participate with us in the ministries here. This was our first time planning a five-day boat trip in this new area. The mission boat is still undergoing minor repairs and being painted so we rented another boat. It took two weeks to hunt for pans, utensils, etc. to equip the kitchen make a menu, contact the cooks and find all the food on the list.

Most everywhere we go is “new” to us as well as the team. They often want to know what to expect and we don’t always have the answers. The team provided funds and came down prepared to build a church in a Ticuna Indian Village. Pr. Hélio had the wood brought in from the jungle and cut into boards. Right before the team arrived, he informed us that his village was still flooded and we would have to wait a few weeks to begin construction. His church will be built on stilts.

Highlights of our trip:

Digging wells... God has a way of stretching us all and taking us out of our comfort zone, so our plan “B” is in reality His plan “A”! The team was very flexible and excited to obey God’s calling for this trip. We travelled eight hours down river and visited three Ticuna Indian villages; Novo Extremo (New Extreme), Santa Rosa 1 and Santa Rosa 2. In two of the villages, we were able to fix their wells, which were



installed ten years ago and haven’t worked for five. These wells were filled with debris and it looked like all was lost. **Whenever ANY difficulty or problem came along, the team would gather together on the spot and pray.** Our attempts to clean the well weren’t working. After a short prayer trusting God to do something we couldn’t, the debris pushed through the surface and the well cleared... to which another prayer, this time of thanksgiving to the Lord, was ushered.

In the Christian village where we dug the well from scratch, they were so thankful that although they have so little according to our standards of living they showered us with precious gifts: bananas, coconuts, lemons, fish and two live chickens. In the two villages where there is no viable church and they practice a cult, the people were not receptive at first and you could feel an oppressive spirit among them. God opened many doors. By the time we left, the priest invited us to preach in their church and they presented us with a few gifts as well.



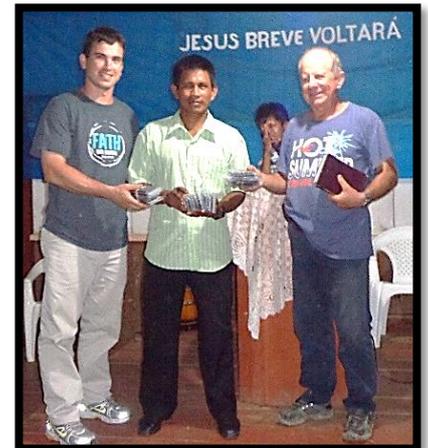
Children's ministries... Through the help of a translator, we taught dental hygiene and gave fluoride treatments and toothbrushes. We all had a great time teaching Bible lessons. The team was very creative and reenacted their own awesome version of "David and Goliath"! ☺

Church services... It was great working alongside Pr. Damião Geraldo, a Ticuna Indian pastor from one of the villages. Wilson gave a message in his village where there are several Christians. He preached on the importance of the Great Commission and how they should not keep Christ to themselves, but learn to reach out to others and take the Gospel message to neighboring villages. We had an excellent opportunity to do just that a few nights later. A minister from the "Cross" cult (right) invited us to participate in his church our last night. This cult is rigid



and severe. You do something wrong... you pay. They divvy out punishments such as kneeling for hours under the hot sun before the large wooden cross out front of their church (left). As we walked in people were kneeling on logs in front of the cross before entering. To our amazement and God's preordained plan, this minister read the story of Nicodemus from the Bible,

which gave Pr. Ryan, one of the team members, the awesome opportunity to share the Gospel message pure and simple. One man asked for a Bible after the service and shared his desire to know God and be a pastor someday. The team brought 300 messengers (solar powered talking Bibles the size of a cell phone) in Ticuna and Spanish combined. They had the special privilege of presenting 30 of these talking Bibles to the pastor for the families in villages!



Points of interest, challenges and funny moments...

... The story of Nicodemus took a whole ten minutes or so to read in Ticuna. Even John 3:16 is around 15 phrases long. The Ticuna language is extremely difficult to learn. Many words are needed to translate passages and express ideas in a way that they can truly understand what is being said.

... The team faced new challenges like wet toilets since the showerheads on the boats here are installed in the middle of the ceiling so the bathroom is one big "shower". There were bugs... chigger



bites, pium bites (that look like chicken pox)... Challenges of sleeping in hammocks for the first time, sleepless nights and some “fessed up” at the end of the trip to falling out of their hammocks.

... A brand new key board was given to Pr. Damião’s church as a gift. A member of the church is working hard and teaching himself how to play so someday they can use it in the services. Tim Schmitz is a musician and God gave him the unique opportunity of playing that keyboard during praise and worship. We were simply awed that God gave him the capacity to actually accompany the totally unique and different melodies and rhythms of the songs the Indians where singing!!

... Pr. Edgardo’s worker Janz came to work with the wells. We all had a good laugh when he was asked to “stand up” in church and ended up the same height as when seated because he is so short.

It was an amazing trip and an amazing team! They were great troopers enjoying the food from our new cooks, climbing and sometimes sliding down riverbanks, pitching in with chores throughout the trip and connecting with the Indians to show them the love of God no matter what it took even with the tremendous language and cultural barriers. Both young and old did flips, cartwheels, magic tricks, etc. God speaks loud and clear through a smile, loving gesture and through our lives and attitudes, even if we can’t say anything!



Please click on this link to see more pictures of the trip and our time in the villages:

So what’s next? God keeps us flexible and moldable, but for now at the end of this month, Jennifer has a team of four coming to have VBS with Corina’s school children. They also raised funds to help Pr. Edgardo build a cement base for a new church on a new piece of land they were able to purchase close to their home. (This church will also be on stilts since their town is completely flooded for five months during rainy season.)

We are so thankful YOU have “teamed” up with us and are trusting God together with us to continue opening doors in the Javari River Valley. We still have persecution. There are still false accusations but through Christ all things are possible to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purposes. Thank you for bathing us in prayer, thank you for giving and thank you for going!

God’s richest blessings,
Wilson and Lori

Wilson and Lori Kannenberg

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