

Wilson and I want to thank you for your prayers for travel safety. We had a great trip home. So... **what's it like to be back in Benjamin Constant?**

Do you remember the record flooding we mentioned before we left? Right now, Benjamin Constant is unbearably **HOT** and **DRY**. The whole town is covered with a cloud of dust since the roads are all torn up and many of the potholes were filled in with dirt as a quick patch up job. Here is the hangar we are currently using. The tributary for take offs and landings is almost completely dried up. We can't wait until the ramp of the new hangar is ready!



Since our return, we have managed to catch and kill three good size rats in our kitchen/storeroom area out back. Duck for lunch anyone? Here in Benjamin Constant, we get to eat lunch in the company of ducks wandering through our local restaurant. Do you like **cashew nuts**? In case you didn't know, the picture on the right is a cashew fruit (delicious and makes great juice, pies, cobblers, etc.). The nut grows first and is found at the bottom of the fruit, (one nut per fruit), and is wrapped in a protective shell or casing that is extremely poisonous. You have to heat that shell to just the right temperature (**HOT**) in order to remove the nut. With only one nut per fruit, maybe that's why they're so expensive!



cashew fruit & nut



It's been awesome to receive so many **warm "welcome backs"** from everyone here ... (and we really mean **WARM** in more ways than one). Besides cleaning the house inside and out after being gone so long, we literally jumped right back into ministry opportunities the moment we arrived. Wilson has thoroughly enjoyed preaching on Sunday nights and a Monday night service and is also teaching Sunday school once again. **Since it is so dry, he is taking advantage to work on building the ramp of the hangar while the river is at it's lowest.**

Children's Day



The week after we arrived, I helped coordinate a grand celebration for **CHILDREN'S DAY**. Seven church congregations along with the kids from a new church plant, gathered together to attend our **"Circus"**! We had an awesome time of praise followed by a short drama presentation, "In search of true happiness", where the kids learned that true happiness is only found in **JESUS!!** 😊





After the program, each church group rotated between seven different "stands" and played circus games such as ring toss, bowling, popping balloons with a dart, fishing, etc. The teachers went out of their way in decorating their stands and preparing simple clown face party favors with treats as take home gifts.



Close to 200 kids heard the Gospel message through the simple presentation and had a tremendous time participating in all the fun and games. The teachers served popcorn, cake and drinks bringing a delicious end to this special day!



Two days later, we held a special celebration during our Monday night service in honor of all the teachers from the Children's Dept. of each of the seven church congregations in town. What a joy to recognize their hard work and dedication, present certificates and pray over them. For me, it was a special joy to share a short message and help distribute the new Sunday school kits I'd been working on for several months. Since the teachers share the kits, rotating them every four months, they should have lesson plans, visuals, handwork, verses and activities for the next three years. After this ceremony, the pastor coordinator of our area preached the BEST sermon we have ever heard on how important it is to train and educate our children in God's ways and how it's primarily the parent's responsibility to do so. It was awesome!



Pray God will give me wisdom to continue orientating teachers, provide teacher training and workshops and give them support and encouragement along the way.



Wilson and I were very excited to participate in the very first service at the new church plant in the rural community called **Grajarí**, only 12 kilometers away. In previous letters, we have written asking for your prayers and have sent news about the construction. We have been trying to establish this church for two years along with the help of our church congregation here in town. The new leaders, **Amarildo** and **Elina** have already been visiting people and giving Bible studies in their homes. Our local church donated a box of Bibles, hymnbooks and pulpit and the community of Grajarí helped provide plastic chairs. We have also been passing on the Sunday

school books we purchase and use every four months. Elina worked with me 1 ½ months cutting out her flannel graph kit. I will continue translating the lesson plans for her to use.



What a joy to see the people coming to church for the first time. Several members from our church were there and most of us shared a short word or gave a testimony. Wilson had the special honor of preaching. We praise God that three people gave their lives to Christ. Please pray that God will use Amarildo and Elina in a tremendous way to reach this community for Christ.

New Church Plant in the rural community of Grajará!

The leaders of our local congregation, called Filadélfia, have asked to leave since the wife will be running for a government office. The pastor of our church is in charge of three churches and a new church plant. We have had so many changes in leadership and this has been very detrimental to the church. After prayerful consideration, Wilson and I have just accepted the position of pastoring this small congregation. Wilson has already been actively preaching most Sundays and teaching Sunday school and I have been involved in the children's department and teaching kids during the evening services occasionally. We will be involved in forming and discipling leaders within the church to carry out the various ministries and teach them how a church should function. We are excited to help solidify this church, provide stability and encourage the members in their walk with Christ and in reaching out to the community.

Our time in Benjamin Constant is not without it's crazy, fun moments! This past weekend, a few pastors and youth leaders escorted the youth groups of the church congregations in town on a boat called a "balieara" to a nearby beach. "Baleia" in Portuguese means "whale" and this one managed to swallow close to 90 of us! The river is beginning to rise once again and soon this beach will be covered with water.



Wilson and I are so blessed to be partnering together with you in the ministries here. Thank you so much for your love, prayers and support!

**To God be the glory for all He had done!
Wilson and Lori**

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