



"May God's way be known on earth, His saving power among all nations." Psalm 67:2

Greetings from the triple borders of Brazil, Colombia and Peru!

March, 2017



*Wilson and I extended our most special welcome once again to Marty and Pam O'neall and their team of two from the 1st **Assembly of God Church in Normal, IL**. Marty, Pam and Chad have made trips to the Amazon for many years now and it's been such a privilege ministering together with them once again. It was very special for us to get to know Ty for the first time and see God use each team member in so many unique ways.*

*After a rough start, due to a snow storm and delayed flight in which the baggage didn't make it to Leticia, we were able to get the team settled at Cabanas (Our local, very rustic "resort") ☺ The following day, we all had fun touring downtown Benjamin Constant and shopping for necessary food items for the boat trip to the village of **Buen Suceso, Peru**. After numerous phone calls the luggage finally arrived and part of the team went with Wilson back to Leticia to pick it up.*



*Saturday morning... the boat is loaded and we begin our 8hr. journey to Buen Suceso to help build a church for **Pr. Edison Gonzalves and his wife Mariela**. This dear couple left their 5 children (who are all grown and married) to obey God's call to reach this simple, remote river village nestled in the Amazon jungle, for Christ. Their passion is to show the people in Buen Suceso God's love and give them hope*



through their Godly example as well as through evangelism and discipleship. Through the monthly support that is sent by the Churches in England, this couple was able to "GO" and begin ministering in this village. It's so awesome to see how God uses His church to carry out His work!

Pr. Edison and Mariela arrived in the village around 8 months ago and had been living in a simple, wooden house. When they found out a team was willing to come and help them build a church, they willingly gave up their home to build the church. Unfortunately, when we got there, we found out the wooden structure was so unstable and rotten, we ended up having to tear the entire house down and start over!

*God always has a plan! It took the men 1 day to tear down the house. In the remaining 2 ½ days we were in the village, the men were able to install the wooden posts and trusses, put up the entire roof and build a 3ft. brick wall at the base of the church. **Here are Chad and Ty hauling wood. It was grueling work. The heat and humidity were intense those first two days. We were using the bridge to the right until Marty fell through! Many prayers were ushered for strength, and safety. We want to thank you for upholding us in every way during this trip!***



Pr. Edison and his wife were so encouraged to get off to such a great start. He and another worker began working on the walls after we left. When the church is completed, Pr. Edison will begin constructing another home for he and his wife.



Every morning we had a great time singing and sharing God's Word with the children. We gave the Wordless Book message which very clearly explains the salvation message to lay the foundation that first day.



We also told them how much God loves and cares for them through the story of the Lost Lamb and how God has the power to protect and use them in mighty ways through the story of David and Goliath. The team did an amazing job acting out that last story with the help of all the kids. What fun and laughter we shared. God's Word changes lives. Two little girls trusted in Christ as their Lord and Savior!



Here we are teaching dental hygiene and giving fluoride treatments...



It was so much FUN playing with the village children at the end of each Bible time. They all enjoyed learning how to jump rope, pop bubbles, play various games and see how high they could toss a ball while shaking a bedsheet up and down...



In the afternoons, we were able to tour the village, visit homes and help fit reading glasses for the elderly...



This woman is proudly showing us her kitchen. This man is getting fitted with reading glasses. The cook stove is to her right.



HOW PRECIOUS IT IS TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND BUILD REALATIONSHIPS!

Pr. Edison was so excited to have us come, he announced we would have a church service each night while we were there. He and his wife are a examples of Godliness, the JOY of the Lord, dedication and service. For this reason and after much prayer, Wilson and Pr. Edgardo approached them and asked if they would consider coordinating the church ministries in 3 villages: Japón, Santa Teresa and Buen Sucesso (All of which are churches we had the privilege of helping to build with you, our ministry partners.) They tearfully accepted and were dedicated to the Lord for this service the second night. Two women trusted in Christ at the end of the service. The pastor and his wife were thrilled to receive Messengers and Bibles to give to families in the church. It rained so hard our last night in the village, the service was cancelled. Tired, yet rejoicing for all that God did among us, we held a dedication service for the church the following morning.



The team's last day with us, we headed over to Islândia to visit homes, check out the church construction there and participate in a church service. Corina prepared a delicious meal for us. Everyone was once again focused on the intense portrayal of the story of **David and Goliath**. Corina loaned us the lid to her largest pot for Goliath's shield. It got quite a work out and banging... just saying ☺! What a tremendous blessing to hear testimonies from the team members in both villages and see how God continues to use them for His glory.

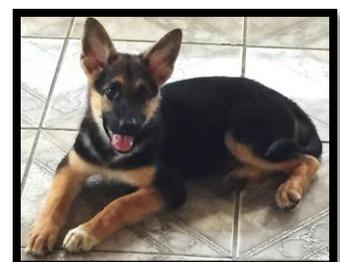


Thank you for joining us through your love and prayers and through your support gifts for us and the ministries in this region. Wilson shared a message from God's Word in the church service in Islândia, challenging us to obey God and "Go" preach the Gospel where ever He calls us, no matter the cost. We face many challenges living in the Amazon jungle. The team faced extreme heat and humidity, pium bug bites (although not so bad as last year). They slept each night in a hammock (or lost sleep!), worked hard, took showers under muddy colored river water, ate more carbs than they would have liked and strived to function in a different culture with a different language. God used them in a mighty way to show His love and share his Word through their lives; their testimonies, actions, smiles, attitudes, etc. Pr. Edison and Mariela were deeply touched and encouraged and so were we! Sometimes it's hard to "keep on keeping on", but when YOU, our ministry partners, back us up and uphold us in so many ways, God give us the strength and wisdom to keep going! Marty was praying for "Good Success" which happens to be the name of the village. God so graciously granted his prayer!

All our love and hugs, Wilson and Lori

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P.S. Right before the team arrived Wilson and I were gifted with a new "family member". Sasha is a rambunctious German Shepherd who is 4mo. old and belongs to Ben and Jessica Spicer. They named her Sasha, meaning protector. She will eventually be living out at the hangar.



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