

I don't normally write a lot in our letters since pictures say 1000 words. But sometimes I like to share what God is doing in our lives and what life is like in our part of the world. So, here goes... **Sharing life in our neck of the woods during the month of February 2019:**

We arrived back in Benjamin Constant, after our short time in south Brazil with Wilson's mom, literally "flying" with mission activities and church services. Wilson took care of the logistics of one mission trip, a team from the USA, so they could travel to very far and remote Indian villages with and Indian pastor. Immediately after this, we both worked on preparing the boat, supplies, menu, shopping list, and ministry materials for two mission trips. The first was with a team from Texas, who travelled with their own team leaders. The day the Texas team returned from their trip, our team arrived!

Santa Luzia



In between times, Wilson and I had the privilege of participating in the 5th yr. anniversary of the church in **Santa Luzia**. The service was tremendous. During praise time, two young people led a song, while the pastor very enthusiastically played the drum strapped around his shoulder. It was a very upbeat and lively song and we all sang along and clapped. I have NEVER heard a song go on for so LONG! I'm pretty sure it was at least 30 minutes and a little over halfway through, I lost the feeling in my hands from clapping so much. Wilson had the honor of sharing the message and praying for the offering.



Around 11:00 pm, when I was sure the service was winding down, the pastor looks at his watch and proudly declares: "It's early", and then proceeds to call several of his congregation up one at a time (including us) to share for a few minutes! (Wilson told me later that since people in river villages don't have much else to do, this particular church carries on their celebrating to wee hours of the morning!)

The service ended with a wonderful time of food and fellowship. It was a banquet. It was LATE and everyone was absolutely famished. They prepared enough food for probably more

than 200 people, but around 80 came. (Which was not so bad being that the church would most likely not have held many more people). So, they filled large Styrofoam bowls with a heaping pile of rice, a huge hunk of chicken and manioc for each of us. I am truly embarrassed to say that I actually ate most of it. AND, the CAKES. They were enormous. We didn't have



time or room to eat any more, so they gave us an incredibly huge piece to take home which we ended up eating in bits and pieces for several days. Even though the celebration was still in full swing, we left at 11:30 pm. in the rain for the 20-minute boat ride back to the hangar and then hopped on our motorcycle and swerved through the mud and muck from the hangar to our house. As we lay in bed that night, we counted our blessings...

Oh, the awesomeness of celebrating God with God's people!

That same night our ministry partner, Pr. Maurilio and his wife, Tacila, travelled with a boat-load of people to **São João** to hold a church service there. I sent a Sunday School kit with Tacila to present to a woman in the village who is already working with the children in the church. (below-left). The pastor's wife of our local church congregation had a brother who shepherds the flock in a village called **Guanabara II**. They were so excited to come to our house to pick up a Sunday School kit for that village. (below-right). The woman on the back of the motorcycle is Pra. Francisca. Although she has done yearly medical exams and shared with the Dr. for months that she was feeling a lump, the Dr. did not indicate any further exams. This humble, Godly woman just found out she has a cancerous tumor in her uterus. Please pray for her! She is getting tests now in Manaus to find out what needs to be done.



The villagers in São João are so excited to have a Church now! They love participating and doing special numbers and presentations in praise and adoration to the Lord.



It's rainy season causing the village to flood a little bit more each day...



God loves to take us out of our comfort zone. The following Sunday morning, the children's teacher asked if I would preach Sunday night because the children were in charge of the service and they know I work with kids... yikes! Preaching comes easier for Wilson. I am a teacher. Preaching is defiantly a stretch for me, and I have to admit, I often need more pushing and shoving than some.

I had nothing to give. So, what does God do? He has me teach the adult Sunday School lesson that morning on the multiplication of the oil from a woman's jar! The prophet asked her one question: "What do you have?" She most likely wanted to say "nothing" too, but remembered she had some oil in a jar. God used that oil to stretch her, renew her faith and give her a miracle. After teaching that lesson, I had no other choice than to say "Yes, I'll preach."

As soon as I did, God put a message in my heart about mirrors; what they reveal and how they imitate everything we do. The theme for the children's service was Prov. 22:6, about teaching children the way they should go, being an example they can imitate. I then shared how God compares the Bible to a mirror. I told the story of Josias and how his parents did not set a good example, but he chose to mirror God's Word in his life and follow King David's example. He became one of the greatest kings ever, giving the people a



Godly example to follow and imitate. **One of the bests gifts parents can give to their children is a Godly.** I challenged each person to see if they reflected Jesus in their lives, imitating what they knew to be true in God's Word, giving their kids and others a Godly

example to follow. I praise God for allowing me this opportunity, one that I almost passed up, to share His Word. I learned that when we obey Him, He is always right there holding us up, giving us wisdom and showing us what to do and how!

God called us to be His humble servants throughout the Amazon, Brazil. God has called you to be a wonderful, amazing part of our ministry team. Through your prayers and support, He sustains us, give us direction and uses us however He chooses. Sometimes that's pretty daunting and challenging, but when we often want to say, "I can't", He reminds us that "He can". Is there something you are facing that seems beyond what you know you can do, what you know you can face or handle? Just remember, God says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me!"

The mission trip with the team from Riverside Community Church in Peoria, IL was incredible. We spent almost a week on the river and built a church in the village of San Sebastian, Peru. (See and read all about this in our next letter 😊).

God bless you for blessing us,
Wilson and Lori

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