

What's life like in Benjamin Constant? Throughout this pandemic, with highly restricted boat transportation, we have been pretty much limited to our little village of Benjamin Constant. So, do you want to know what life is like here? See for yourself 😊...



City Hall of Benjamin Constant



Our home.



Our street-heading to the market on foot. Arriving downtown - ready to shop.

Downtown Benjamin Constant is approximately two blocks square. You will find 1 bank, 5 regular little grocery stores, an open market (in which they spread throughout the area because of the



Open Market

pandemic), 5 mini pharmacies, 4 hotels and a myriad of stores selling miscellaneous items and where you can purchase in bulk. There is also the fish/meat market, an office supply store, a few construction stores and 1 bread store.



Fruit/Vegetable Market



Our favorite grocery store.

*This Peruvian run grocery store is **THE** place to go to find treasures like good carrots and beets, broccoli and cauliflower. We can find a few health-food items such as chia seeds and at times they have special chips like nachos.*

I fill up my backpack and large canvas bag, loading them up with as much as I can carry and then I flag down a motorcycle taxi and head for home. When I cook and bake, I often spend entire mornings, since everything is made from scratch.



The Stadium

At the end of the day, Wilson often goes here to walk and jog. It is also where we attend special events like parades, Gospel shows, etc.

*Wilson and I receive an occasional visitor and are allowed to visit others here and there as long as we maintain our distance. We recently had a "live in" visitor who is a master at social distancing... a RAT! One morning, I opened the back and side doors as usual, and sat down to work on our correspondence at **4:00 am** (since this is the time the rates are especially low, and it actually works). Out of the corner of my eye I saw a rat (no, not a little mouse) scurry around the corner and past the buffet in the dining room. Wilson and I tried everything from setting a rat trap, which he cleverly sprang 3 times, to running after him to clobber him with a broom stick (definitely not effective, AND then there's me... screaming on top of the couch), to feeding him a generous dose of rat poison, which he ravenously ate faithfully every night. He chewed chunks of wood out of our desk... and who knows what else, leaving little droppings everywhere you can imagine. One day there was an awful smell coming from the oven and I thought I baked him! How long can a rat live with NO food or water, anyway? One morning, after a pancake breakfast with our grandkids, who came for a sleep-over, I found him sitting behind the coffee maker. We all screamed and ran out of the kitchen, while Wilson clobbered him in the head with us flip flop, successfully this time. This is definitely one visitor we could have done without!*



Father's Day in Brazil is in August, but we decided to celebrate Father's Day with the Spicer's, an American missionary couple and a Brazilian missionary couple in honor of Ben, Paul and Wilson. It was so awesome to have something to look forward to, enjoy an delicious barbecue, Brazilian style and fellowship together. We had such a great time, no one remembered to take any pictures!

Stores, restaurants and churches are now starting to open with limited occupancy. We shop only when necessary and haven't gone out to eat for months, unless you count our "cookouts" 😊! We continue to enjoy nightly visits with Ben, Jessica, Chloe and Lucas and I continue to teach Sunday School each week. This month I finished yet another set of 13 Bible Lesson plans and put together 16 more kits. I am nearing the end of preparing the Sunday School visuals and material that were donated and will soon be able to pass it on to churches in distant river villages, once transportation restrictions are lifted.

Wilson has done some projects here at home but has spent the bulk of his time this month at the hangar repairing the boats, van and building a small marina. We continue to use the C206 plane and Heron has a small amphib ultralight. The hangar is full and overflowing. We needed space to park boats from local missionaries and pastors of river village churches who come into town periodically. Due to so many thefts of boats and engines along the river, we decided a marina would provide a more secure place for these boats and provide a better place to store wood and metals rods, for church construction in a storage space below the marina...



Marina overlooking the Juruá river.





Wilson and I wanted to go to the USA for one month in September but have already put any travel plans off until next year (possibly June). The trips with mission teams from the USA that were scheduled for this year have all been cancelled. To date: Peru and Columbia are still closed. As soon as the travel restrictions are lifted, Wilson would like to go to Iquitos, visiting pastors from the church plants along the way. He continues to look into possibilities for teaching seminary training modules at some point. To do that online is out of the question since most pastors in river villages do not have access to internet and even if they did, it's way too slow.

Our time has not been wasted! Spending time in prayer, reading God's Word, making personal visits to folks in town and long distance visits through the phone as well as sending short devotionals, working on ministry projects and spending time with family continues to give us purpose and fills our hearts with joy. The Spicer's will head to the USA end of August to meet the new member of their family. It's a BOY! 😊 Ben has been working on lessons to teach Firm Foundations in Portuguese to village pastors and leaders and hopes to begin doing that when they return. This will give these leaders a necessary and excellent tool to teach God's Word and disciple people in their village.

Julie continues working part time as a teaching nurse and is doing an excellent job on her nurse practitioner's course online. She hopes to be able to start her clinicals soon, once the restrictions from the state of IL are lifted. Brandon will begin his nurse practitioner course end of August in geriatrics, doubling up on his classes the first year. He will continue working full time initially. All our kids will be making changes in the months ahead. We know they would all appreciate your prayers for God's guidance during these turbulent times and wisdom for the new challenges they will be facing and decisions they will be making.

We miss you! You are in our heart and prayers. As we hear of all the unrest, violence, luting and all the bad things that are happening there, we trust God heals the nation, cares for each of you and puts His and of protection on you. This is our prayer for you...

**“Be anxious for nothing, but by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the pace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:6,7**

Humanly speaking it is almost impossible to keep from worrying and being anxious, but in Christ, all things are possible, and if we trust Him, He will give us strength, keep us calm and help us one step at a time. Our Bible verse last Sunday was: **“And God will generously provide all you need...” 2 Corinthians 9:8a.** He knows what we are facing, He knows what we need, and He knows what is BEST for us, especially in the midst of trials and tribulation. We are praying for you and trusting God to carry you through! Wilson and I praise God for each one of you. Thank you for your love, prayers and continued support!

Sending you our love and hugs and God's richest blessings,

Wilson and Lori

Wilson and Lori Kannenberg
C.P. 41
Benjamin Constant, AM 69630
Brazil, S.A.
www.wilsonandlori.com



* **Monthly Support Gifts:**
may be sent in our name to:
Mission Aviation Fellowship
P.O. Box 47
Nampa, ID 83653

Phone:

011-55-97-99171-2100
011-55-97-99171-1516

E-mail

wilson_kannenberg@hotmail.com
lori.kannenberg@hotmail.com

Birthday:

Wilson 08/10/55
Lori 03/25/58

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