

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2020

This past year was a stretch for all of us. For some it brought grieving, heartache, chaos. Others were faced with frustrations and major decisions. For all of us the year 2020 brought changes, challenges and uncertainties about the future. As we are all wondering what the future holds, at least we don't need to wonder WHO holds the future! When we remember God is in charge, we can rest assured that He has a PLAN and He knows what's BEST. **"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** Jeremiah 29:11 So, when we say **"Happy New Year"**, we mean just that. Let us be reminded NOT to let Satan rob us of our love of God, peace or our JOY this year, no matter what circumstances come our way.

During the pandemic with all the lockdowns and restrictions, we are so thankful that we didn't need to put a halt to ministry or ministry projects. This year provided us with a great opportunity to work on ministry projects, long overdue documents and tools that we use to be able to do the ministry here; mainly our means of transportation to and from the hangar and to and from river villages and Indian tribes throughout the Amazon both in Brazil and Peru.

Wilson continues to work at the hangar every day when he's not travelling and is very excited to have the new "face lift" on BOTH the plane and the smaller mission boat DONE! Don't they look GREAT?! We are thrilled to finally have a roof over the boat and to have it legally registered with all the documents in order. (Which take a LOT of time here!) The plane documents are done too.



We were gifted recently with special ministry funds from one of our supporting churches to purchase a few ministry tools on our "dream list." God multiplied that gift three times over due to the current exchange rate from dollar to the Brazilian real.

The motorcycle/truck we use constantly was needing more and more maintenance, so with these funds we were able to sell the old one and purchase another one. We use this instead of a car, which is just not practical with the extremely poor conditions of our roads. This one has two-wheel drive and reduction gear which better enables us to navigate the extremely muddy roads. Wilson just had a removable canvas roofing made for it. That allows us to get around as a family to do grocery shopping, etc. It's a real blessing for Ben and Jessica as well now that they have three kids. A family of four on a motorcycle is common here, but five is pushing it to say the least! We know they will still use both their motorcycles on a daily basis, but this will give them a much safer option and they won't have to worry about being fried on sunny days or getting wet on rainy days (both of which we have plenty of!)



We were also able to purchase 3 boat engines (with long shafts at the end) and a new canoe for pastors ministering in river villages. Wilson put Pr. Maurilio as Pr. Coordinator over several of our church plants in Peru. He recently made his first trip, without Wilson, and took one of these engines to Bruce, who is now leading the church in Santa Teresa. Another engine and canoe were purchased and sent to a pastor from a Ticuna Indian tribe in Brazil. Pr. Maurilio was also blessed with one of these



engines. He pastors the church in Islândia, Peru and makes the 20 min. trip back and forth several times a week for church, youth group, children's ministries, house visits, Bible studies and special events. Our most special thanks for this tremendous gift.

Pr. Maurilio's 1st trip was amazing. He came back all pumped up and excited. He took his son and another Christian brother from here. They encouraged the local pastors and visited homes, praying for families and sharing God's Word in Buen Suceso, Santa Teresa, Japóm and São Sebastião. The last church is our newest church plant and Maurilio told us the God is really using the new leader. The church is growing, and people are responding to the Gospel. God ministered to hearts! Six people gave their lives to Christ and four people made a decision to return to the Lord and walk in His ways.

We praise the Lord daily for the amazing ministry team He has blessed us with! YOU back us up regularly in prayer and work hard to so faithfully send support gifts to meet our personal and ministry needs. You pour out your love on us, encourage us and find ways to minister together with us firsthand. We have never felt what that old saying declares: "out of sight, out of mind". Even though we are most often separated by great distances, you have never forgotten us and have been there for us in good times and bad. You don't give up but have stood by our side decade after decade! We have learned so much from you through the years and have truly appreciated your wise counsel, new ideas, input and help. A new year begins, and we are excited and ready to continue serving the Lord here in the Amazon together with YOU! 😊

Wilson had a meeting with Pr. Hélio and Pr. Isaú (brothers). They are pastors and pastor coordinators of several remote churches in Ticuna Indian tribes. They have trained new leaders and started a new preaching point and church plant in Novo Cruzador on the Tacana river. It's so awesome to see how pumped up they are to further the Gospel among their own people. They have already cut wood on their own to begin constructing the church and we are helping with the roofing and a few other details. Plans were made for Wilson to teach a seminary training module to their pastors and leaders February 14-16 in Feijoa, Pr. Hélios' main church.



We had a great time of fellowship at a service in Islândia. Wilson preached and installed two new leaders and their wives to help Maurilio.



We continue to hold Bible studies from time to time. This one was at the ex-mayor's home with his family and relatives. "Negão" and Doraci's desire is to be living examples of the verse in Joshua 24:15: **"As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord!"** Wilson shared the Gospel message using the verse in Revelation 3:20 **"Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and He with me."** Isn't it just like God to not be imposing, but give us the choice,



whether, or not we want to listen, pretend not to listen, let Him in or ignore Him? He wants our love and obedience. He will never force His way in but is ALWAYS there waiting to be given an invitation to dine with us, bless us and be our Savior and Lord!

We planned a simple, outdoor, Bible study, but this loving couple had other plans. After the study, we all enjoyed a great time of fellowship and a barbecue. Ok, so I did NOT enjoy or even attempt to eat the most popular fish in Benjamin; Bodó (which is basically a black, ugly, sucker fish). There were two large buckets FULL and they grilled them as is! They did barbecue some meat and had the traditional beans, rice and manioc flour as well. So how do your tastebuds respond to this delicacy? I do know one thing, they sure made quick work on all those fish. They ate to their heart's delight!

I continue to work on putting together children's Bible lesson plans and was recently asked to prepare lesson plans on the minor prophets. It's definitely more challenging, but I am learning so much and it's been exciting to see is all come together. They are dynamic with a lot of interaction with the kids and yet present the truths in God's Word in a way they can understand and remember.

Wilson and I did finally make it to the USA the middle of December for one month. God gave us an amazing time together with our kids for an early Spicer family Christmas and Christmas celebrations with kids and grandkids at a beautiful log cabin, belonging to Leighann's folks, located in the mountains of AK. So many wonderful memory making moments to cherish. See for yourself! 😊

A KANNENBERG FAMILY CHRISTMAS!



Having fun cutting and decorating the tree.



Decorating Christmas cookies together... YUM!

Worshipping in a "candlelight" service Christmas morning.



An early Spicer family Christmas...



From our family to yours... HAPPY NEW YEAR! 😊



All our love and hugs,
Wilson and Lori

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