



February 2016

Dear Friends,

Family – Thanks for holding us up in prayer. It is comforting to know that we have people praying for us and standing with us. We are in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with our son Nathaniel, and Philip is serving in the Air Force in Florida. We've been privileged to spend some precious time with our grandkids.

Medical – This trip to the U.S. was not in our plans. Due to a growing black irregular spot on Diana's left wrist, and the concern that it was Melanoma, we decided that it was best to come for treatment. It turned out to be just that, and was removed in two separate procedures. The biopsy showed that she seems to be in the clear, and that it had not spread. In October of last year, Diana began feeling extreme pain in her left arm and shoulder, and after we had an MRI done, a large mass was detected under her tricep muscle, which was pressing on a nerve cluster, and partially blocking an artery. This was removed by surgery on February 11th, in Denver, and the biopsy showed it was not malignant. She is currently recuperating, and will go for the post-op appointment on the 25th. After that, she will get whatever physical therapy needed, and then we should be free to return to Manaus.

Field News – Current plans are for the Bible institute in Manaus to begin on Monday, March 14th, and end on June 3rd, with graduation on the 4th. The student body is growing again, and if every one returns as planned, we will have more than a dozen students. We will have one graduate, Davi, from the Cachiwana tribe, who lives and works several days downriver on the Amazon, and then up a smaller tributary. He promises to be a very dedicated and faithful evangelist, not only among his own people, but also in the Ishcariano, Arara, and two other unreached tribes I cannot mention, due to security reasons. Pray for our graduates that work in these remote regions, and who are involved in cross-tribal evangelism. These men and women are modern day heroes of the faith, many times putting their lives and families' well being at risk, for the opportunity to reach the people groups deep in the interior areas.

Violence – The efforts to curb the violence in Manaus and surrounding areas have not panned out. With the constant kidnappings, murders, and robberies the situation is becoming intolerable, and it is not uncommon to see gun battles in the streets. One of the greatest factors that contribute to this is the present economic situation in Brazil. With the threat of impeachment of the president, the high inflation rates, and the current recession and job losses, there is a lot of uncertainty, and crime rates are rising again even higher than before. Pray for our Christians and churches there.

Zika – There have been 30 confirmed cases in Manaus, 8 of these in pregnant women. This "new" strain affects the health of the unborn baby, deforms the head, and is accompanied by neurological problems. There are 355 other cases being evaluated, and of these 48 are of pregnant mothers. The Amazon River has not risen in February as usual, and is going down instead. The "low water" breeds mosquitos easier, and has helped to spread all the mosquito borne viruses throughout the Amazon Region.

Plans for 2016 – We hope by God's grace to visit and strengthen the interior works through leaders' conferences; to continue producing Sunday School material, Bible lessons and Bible institute materials; we plan to continue to encourage our established churches, and help them start new works; to continue to train and encourage our leaders to hold the standard high and take the movement forward.

Thank-you – We appreciate each and every one who gives and prays for our family and ministry. You are our partners in all that the Lord is doing and will do in the future in the Amazon Basin.

In His Service,
True and Diana Hawkins