



The True Hawkins Family - Brazil

2012

Dear Fellow Laborers,

Family – Diana and I are fine, just dealing with the aches and pains rainy season brings every year.

Record Year – The Rio Negro and Amazon have risen to a record high 29.78 meters above sea level. The lower parts of the city of Manaus are already covered, and 12 suburbs have been affected. The difference between a flash flood and high water is that the second can last up to two months as the regional rains and snowmelt of the Andes affects the entire river system. Most of the shops in the older, lower part of town are closed, and the sales people laid off. The sewage has become an “unbearable” problem, and entire blocks have moved out to higher ground. There are over 60 counties and 20 cities that are under water, so the state is grinding to a halt. Production of fruits and vegetables, along with other materials are completely stopped, and a state of emergency has been declared. I visited one of the closer towns, Careiro da Várzea, and the pastor there continues on with his flock, and insists on staying there because they cannot leave their homes vacant. Snakes, rats, alligators, and giant catfish lurk in and around the flooded homes, already built on stilts to stay above the usual high water mark.

Construction – Our trip to put the roof on the congregation at Lago das Araras was cancelled, due to the entire island going under water.

Militão and Olivia continue to build in Purupuru, and plan to have phase one done by May 30th. The trip to Beruri I postponed until June 7th, when I hope to take a work group up and spend 10-15 days.

Bible Institute – Our semester ends on May 25th, with no graduates this semester. The nine weeks we spent in Genesis class were profitable, not only to teach the story of creation, but the other great lessons of the book. The Cachiyana and Iscariiano tribes don’t have the Old Testament in their language, so they will return this month to teach these truths to their people.

Pastors’ Congress – We have organized a pastors’ congress for the churches here and the surrounding states. Our plan is to concentrate on the pastor’s work and responsibilities, and emphasize missionary outreach.

Church Work – We recently ordained a man named Renato, who is a promising young pastor. What we really need is about 200 more like him to build churches all over the basin. There is so much opportunity here. In the month of May, 4 of the churches in Manaus had baptismal services, with a total of 42 entering the waters. The churches are growing and building, and expanding their missionary vision.

Prayer – Please remember us as we continue on with our “turn over” project, as our men and women here steadily stand up and take the places they have been prepared for. Our next “fundamentalist” meeting is on June 4th, where more decisions will be made, and a formal fellowship begins taking shape.

Thanks – We appreciate so much your continued prayer and financial support. The dollar has risen temporarily to 2 reais to 1 US dollar, so we have recuperated a little of the 60% loss over the last 4 years. What we need much more than funds is for God to move in the hearts of our people here in a mighty way. Thank you.

In His Service,

True and Diana Hawkins



Ordination ←



Cachiyana and Iscariiano Indians with True →