



The True Hawkins Family

November/December



Aparecida Island

Dear Supporting Friends,

Bible Institute – Here in Manaus, we are finishing up our semester on December 4, and graduating a young man named Herleilson from the church in Novo Airão. He will be finishing the 1800-hour, 3-year course and will be the 243rd graduate since the Bible Institute opened in 1973.

Alberto, our missionary on the upper Ayari called and said that things are going well. He has four men and one lady graduating from the “Word of God” Bible Institute on that river (900 miles upriver from Manaus). He is evangelizing several tribes in Brazil and Colombia, and his latest work among the Cubiu people at Santa Isabel, close to Mitu, in Colombia, saw 17 saved and baptized in that very remote region.

Marcílio, our missionary on the Rio Negro, Içana, and tributaries, made it up to Cumati on the Xié, where he did a two-week intensive “mini institute” with 22 students from the Warakenas in Venezuela, and Inyengatu in Brazil. While there, he went to Namuim, where they have begun a new work, and saw three saved at the conference there. This is a very remote area (800 miles upriver from Manaus), and is dangerous, not only because of the rapids on the river, but the Colombian revolutionaries (FARC, ELN) that are constantly robbing and killing Brazilians along the border.

Aparecida Island – Two of our teachers here at the Bible Institute in Manaus, Phammela (a psychologist) and Inez, which teaches child evangelism, went upriver 650 miles to do a Sunday school clinic for the churches in that region. They had planned on a 24-hour trip, but with the river conditions being very low, it took 50 to get there on the “jet boat”. They beached twice, broke the propeller on a rock, and had other troubles, but made it in time to teach 27 pastors, deacons, and church leaders for the two days. They were fed sloth, monkey, and other things they are not used to eating, but survived, and are planning another trip even further interior.

Manaus – We have thus far suffered a 22-day bank strike, which really made things difficult as all the banks closed, and a 9-day fuel suppliers’ strike, combined with a national trucker’s strike that all but paralyzed the country.

The bandits used dynamite to blow up the ATM’s at the agency that I use in Compensa, a suburb close by. I had planned to go there early that day to cash, and am glad I got delayed. The violence has calmed a little, due to one sheriff’s action; he told the policemen to “just go out and shoot all the bandits.” Many of them left town for a while, and are holed up in interior towns and villages.

Interior Works – One of our retired pastors, Antonio Sena, and his wife Raimunda, are going regularly to Beruri to hold services and build up the work there. Their last trip saw one young lady saved, and attendance in the 40’s on Saturday night and 70 plus on Sunday.

The doors and windows are in place in Purupuru, and the work there is growing, despite all the difficulties.

We are accumulating funds for the tile floors for Beruri and Purupuru at the moment.

Thank You – We appreciate all of you for your continued support of the work here. It has been 58 years since my parents arrived in Brazil, and what has been accomplished is due to your faithful prayers and support. We are encouraged to tell of the more than 300 graduates from all the Bible institutes in the Amazon Basin, who labor for the Lord, many of them in remote and difficult regions. Entire villages coming to Christ; unreached tribes being evangelized; God changing hearts; churches started and believers baptized and trained for service in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, and Surinam. These are a result of your prayers and generous gifts.

Prayer – Please pray for us as we continue here. Diana’s MRI showed a tear in her bicep, which will need treatment. Please pray for Nathaniel and his family as they are going through a huge battle. It is very hard to be so far away and not be able to be present for our kids and grandkids.

In His Service,

True and Diana Hawkins