



# The True Hawkins Family

May 2017



Institute Choir

Dear Ministry Partners,

**Family** – Please continue to pray for Nathaniel and our grandkids. He has another court appearance on June 6<sup>th</sup>. He is doing a commendable job raising them alone, and we are very proud of him. Philip continues his 16-hour days on base, and other activities related to his job. Diana and I are fine. **Thank you** for your continued prayers for our safety and health.

**Bible Institutes** – Missionary Marcílio is finishing up the epistles of Peter and John at the Bible institute in São Gabriel, and will be headed upriver to Cumati on May 30<sup>th</sup>. He installed new parts and prop on his outboard, and tested everything twice. It is a 400-mile trip upriver, with many rapids and rough water; he can't afford for the motor to fail on him. He plans to work on the new Bible institute buildings during daylight hours, and then teach institute classes at night.

We finished up the semester here at IBBA (Manaus) on May 27; this was the 86<sup>th</sup> commencement program. This institute began in 1973, and operates two three-month semesters a year; 300 hours of class time; a total of six semesters and a course time of 1800 hours. In December, we have three more graduating; this will total 248.

**Construction** – We have been busy in the afternoons here at the Bible institute in Manaus, and have finished the stone grill used for the institute programs; completed the sidewalk outside the wall; laid the foundation for the new wash house; and measured and planned for the new soccer field. Because of an emergency at the congregation in João Paulo (their roof sagged and almost collapsed), we had to purchase the iron necessary to replace the wood structure, and the new roof will be put on very soon.

Missionary Militão has almost finished plastering the outside walls on the auditorium at *Purupuru*. Their health (Militão and Olivia are 79 and 80 years old) is failing, but they are still excited about building God's house and serving faithfully to the end. They are an inspiration to me.

**Interior works** – The visit last month to *Irاندوبا* saw 4 children saved; missionary Valmir said that the result of the conference on *Aparecida Island* was 4 adults saved and baptized, and 2 reconciliations. Joaci, the church leader in *Beruri*, also told me that their visits have paid off, and the congregation is growing. We praise the Lord for the progress of these works, and the men and women that serve faithfully, despite opposition and, at times, even persecution.

**Problems** – Our political system has all but collapsed due to the corruption scandals; the people are getting very discouraged and impatient. The last president (Dilma) was impeached, and now there is talk of taking out the one who took over after her. The news said now 1800 more politicians are being investigated. We have almost 300.000 people out of work here in Manaus, so I imagine you get the picture. Please continue to pray for our pastors and churches as we weather yet again another crisis. This month saw one of our students robbed at gun point at the bus station; the Bible institute director's son robbed in front of our gate; Caruari Baptist Church was robbed last week, and they even took the cleaning supplies; the church in Saint Augustine suburb was robbed Saturday night, and literally "cleaned out" of anything valuable; hopefully they left the director's old suit, as he needed it for the program.

**Thank you** as always for giving and praying; knowing you are standing with us is very important to us.

In His Service,

*True and Diana Hawkins*



Grill and wash house foundation



Institute outer sidewalk



Mother's Day-Iranduba