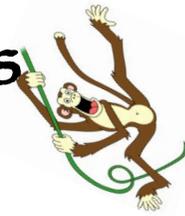




# On the Wings of Prayer



“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.” Psalm 63:7

February 2010

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## Mission Director's Message

By John Peebles, IBFI Mission Director

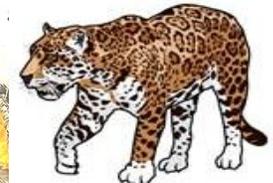
### Bible Verse

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. **Romans 1:20-23**

I am excited by what God has done and what He is doing here in Fort Worth and around the world. Along with God's blessings come opposition and with open doors come many adversaries. When the trials are great, the blessings and possibilities for victory are likewise great. Pray for our missionaries as they represent our Lord for us before people beyond our direct reach. There is a great and important work to be done for our Lord. What a wonderful blessing it is to have a part in it! Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support.



## A Special Tribute to Our Missionaries in Brazil



## Tribal Peoples of Brazil

By Missionary to Brazil True Hawkins

Many of the tribal people I know are very religious. They have in their belief systems a creator god, lesser gods who rule the natural world, and a host of spirits which they contact through their witch doctors. They are also very superstitious, and live in great fear. It is interesting that many have in their oral traditions stories of a great flood, a coming messiah, and the end of the world. Some worship their deity as the supreme sovereign god, and in other cultures their gods are human-like, deviant, and even cruel.

Not all people groups have concepts common to the western world. Most understand the concept of sin since they know right from wrong. They have their own laws and codes (Romans 2:12-14) and abide by or break them.

Their cultures are as diverse as trees in the forest. One tribe holds treachery as their highest virtue, another takes anything from you that you haven't used in two or three days, the reason being that if you haven't needed it for that long, you don't need it at all. One missionary was almost killed because he began eating the chickens he was raising. The elders called him before the council and demanded to know why he was killing those he had so carefully cared for, fed, and protected, even building them a house. They told him it was okay to eat the eggs, just not kill the chickens.

Most of the tribes live in villages, and are fairly well organized. They have hunting parties, groups for garden making, fruit and jungle products gatherers, basket and mat weavers, and so on. They are very conscious of age, status, and hierarchy, and respect is paid to all, whether male or female. Living community style, they share all food, work, and responsibility.

The jungle life is a hard existence, and survival is a daily concern. They are, generally speaking, a happy people, not having many of the burdens of "civilization." They have festival days, celebrations, and feasts. They have their problems, which include infanticide, murder, war, fighting, and cruelty. There is drug abuse: caxiri, padu, parica, and others. Human nature is the same all over the world. They do all have one thing in common: they need someone to declare Jesus to them. Because of their beliefs and traditions, most tribes readily receive the Good News, and by God's Spirit, will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. **John 9:36b** – "...who is he, Lord, that I might believe on Him?"

# Missionaries to Brazil

John & Connie Hinton and Bill & Sharon Smith



**John & Connie Hinton (Brazil)** write, "2010 is here. I pray as the Lord draws nearer to His return, we made a commitment to serve more this year than ever before [on furlough]. Please be in prayer for us as we have to make a decision on when to return to the field. As you all know, things have been hard in the US and many have faced financial hardships. This, along with the value of the dollar continually falling in Brazil, has hindered our ability to raise much needed support . . . We know that with the prayers of God's people, this can change. Prayer changes everything. We would like to thank all of you who pray for us daily and support us financially for sticking with us through thick and thin. Your sacrifice is not taken lightly."



**Bill & Sharon Smith (Brazil)** Back in Brazil, the Smiths had a three-day Vacation Bible School Jan. 28-30. They had 50 the first day, 44 the second, and 48 the third. These were ages 3-16 years old plus our adult helpers. Write the Smiths, "I think everyone had a good time. The kids sure enjoy just playing together. Of course we wanted them all to come back for Sunday School, but only four did. Most of the kids live close to the church so we will have to try to visit them and get them coming to Sunday School."



## News from Haiti & the Dominican Republic

**Ron & Kathy Valerio (Dominican Republic)** write, "Greetings from the Dominican Republic. Thank you for your prayers as we help with groups coming into the Dominican Republic on their way to Haiti to help in various capacities. Our second group came in last Thursday. It consisted of medical personnel and church members from Amarillo, TX. They were able to take in a lot of food and medical supplies to a missionary in Port Au Prince. Prayers sustain and protect us. On Saturday, the group headed back to the Dominican Republic. After entering, they encountered a group of men who were possibly protesting the electric situation, not getting enough water, or other reasons they are angry about, or a group of thieves on the road. We don't know. First they threw a rock through the bus window (hoping to disable the driver). It missed him by about 12 in. Then our group came to burning tires that had been placed across the road in order to stop the bus. The driver, gunning the engine, drove through the tires, opening a path for those behind them. A tire, on fire, stuck to the bottom of the bus, but the fire went out and they were able to get it off. The Lord protected these folks and we believe that praying Christians had a great part in this. Your prayers are very important to us and those we work with in the Dominican Republic. We thank you again for your tremendous prayer support!!!

**Steve & Mary Earlywine (Mexico)** write, "The mission had a busy month of December with special programs. We had a great time with Melissa Houston and her muppets (56 people present). We were able to prepare 18 boxes [of food, toys & gifts] for the families of the Mission. On the 15th of January, Pastor Isidro and I were out visiting the area two valleys over from the Mission when we came upon a man walking. He said there was a man who lives up on top of the mountain that we need to talk to. When we got up there we found a 65-year-old man who accepted Christ as Savior and asked us to come back. We are not sure if he can make it to church, but he is saved. Thank you for sending us. Prayer and needs—The Mission and plans for it. The new baptistry. Pastor Isidro & wife Veronica. Mary needs new hearing aids (\$1400).

**Leslie & Alba Priday (Honduras)** want to thank all who sent flowers, cards & emails in the wake of Alba's mother's passing. A special thank you goes out to their home church, Victory Baptist in Weatherford, TX. They also thank those who prayed for the elections there on Nov. 29th. They were the smoothest, most transparent, and had the biggest turnout in history. There was no violence. The deposed president is still hiding in the Brazilian Embassy. Their Christmas Cantata had an attendance of 112! From Feb. 18-20 they held a ladies conference; Martha Johnson from Victory Baptist Church in Weatherford, TX, flew down (with her husband Johnny and Bro. Jim & Darlene Hamiltons' teenage daughter Jessica) to teach in it. Please pray for the Pridays' youth camp March 30-April 1. The cost is \$48 per teen. If you can help with partial scholarships, please send an offering to IBFI designated for "Youth Camp."

**Flo Martin (Guatemala)** In Cantel, their VBS had 320 children attend! They stopped building temporarily due to preparations for the celebration of the eighth anniversary of the church. They prayed each night for the list of people that were invited.

**Mark & Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** Ten people were baptized last month alone! A large Native American family's patriarch (who preached at Granado many years ago) came one Sunday with his extended family. He had told the family they had slipped away from serving the Lord. Please pray that all of the people above are taught how to follow Christ daily and also for newly saved teenager Ursula Reed. What a Great Savior!

**Harold & Lena Priday (Honduras)** write, "We are grateful for the great Christmas offerings and the wonderful response to our need for the immigration papers. Thank you. We are excited to report that two from Colonia Matta will be starting a new weekly Saturday youth meeting, starting with about forty young people. Last week a man surrendered to preach. It is hard to find responsible men in Latin America. Most are on drugs and alcohol very young, have no family ties, and drift through life. We praise the Lord for the men we are working with, they are very special. The works are all doing well. We continue to pray and look for another new mission work.