

On the Wings of Prayer

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

THE “WAY MARY”

(Names and places have been changed or omitted due to the sensitive nature of this mission endeavor.)

It has been many years since I began praying for God to give us an opportunity to reach these people. Every time I went through their reservation, I prayed for God to open the door. We began driving this “highway” when our children were small, and when it was just a dirt tract winding through the dense rainforest. We enjoyed making the 500-mile trip north to visit our fellow missionaries and to spend some important family time camping and climbing the hills. When it rained, the road was a muddy mess with tractors to pull the vehicles out of the deep holes; when it was dry season, we had to roll up the windows when some vehicle passed us and “bite the dust.” On our many trips over the years, we have seen groups of the Way Mary wandering along the road on hunting trips or gathering fruit. The government has posted many signs along the 80 miles of the reserve reminding all travelers it is prohibited to stop, film, photograph or even drink the water from the streams. We have never been allowed to contact anyone there. This tribe has always been known for their violence and aversion to outsiders. On one occasion, as we were returning to Manaus, one of them stepped out of the jungle ahead of us with a huge machete and ran at us - chopping at our moving vehicle, barely missing the back door. In the past, they killed a religious group who attempted to reach them. Two years ago at a Bible conference on a tributary of the Amazon River, a young man from this tribe who had accepted the Lord some years earlier, began to feel God calling him to be a witness to his own people. At the time, he was being trained by one of our Bible institute graduates; and being married to a woman from another tribe (which has had the gospel for decades) they decided to heed the call. They have since then been sent from an “indigenous” church as missionaries to a remote part of the Way Mary reservation. At first, the “Tuxauas” (chiefs) refused to accept their message or any outside influence and were especially resistant because the missionary did not promote their tribal customs and traditions. Dorinelle, another one of our graduates who works several days by canoe below that area, told me recently that three of the chiefs had now agreed to let the gospel be preached to the 18 communities on their particular river. This is the first time that this tribe has ever opened the door to the gospel. On March 27, Dorinelle will meet with the rest of the evangelistic team in an undisclosed location; they will be the first to go and share the gospel with those people on that river. They will stop at the first community before going upriver; there are 14 candidates awaiting baptism and discipleship - two of them chiefs - fruit of two years of that young missionary's labor. We have been asked to help, and this we will most gladly do. We are already saving to help buy gasoline for the trip and filling the Way Mary requests: they have asked for cloth to make clothes and plastic buckets. These people do not read or write and have nothing written in their language to help them understand the way to salvation. Their only hope is someone to take the gospel to them orally and to preach in their language. Thank you to all who have stood with us over the years and faithfully given and prayed; we asked in the March 2016 newsletter for you to pray “...that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ...” (Col. 4:3) and He has; notice that was two years ago. This miracle has come about because of you and your prayers, and the partnership we have with you through missions; it is an example of your mission dollars at work. Yes, God does answer prayer!

-True Hawkins, IBFI Missionary to Brazil

- **Melissa Houston (Rio Grande Valley)** is busy preparing children's Bible lessons to be used in the Sunday School classes. Melissa request prayer as she designs her new website. She would like to share her children's Bible curriculum via this website.
- **Harold and Lena Priday (Honduras)** report the Christians maturing and getting more involved in the church ministries. Please continue to pray for Honduras as there is political unrest. Preparations are being made for this year's youth camp. Please pray for the mission work as the Priday's work to reach that community for Christ.
- **John and Neila Yelle (Brazil)** had a good attendance at a church picnic with eleven first time visitors. The Yelle's extend their gratitude for your prayer's for the daughter Katherine. She is healing well after her auto accident. Please continue to pray for their outreach ministries.
- **Leslie and Alba Priday (Honduras)** continue to disciple their congregation and teach them to also send forth laborers into the "harvest field." The Priday's request prayer for their upcoming youth camp.
- **Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Indians)** report 17 students attending Ganado Baptist Bible College this semester. Souls are being saved and Christians are being disciplined. The Haynes' continue to train men and women to carry out the Great Commission.
- **True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** report 10 students attending the Bible Institute night classes. Please pray for liberty to teach the Brazilian people the Word of God and spiritual growth among the believers.
- **Daniel and Michelle Jones (Rio Grande Valley/Mexico)** continue to train men and women for the ministry. The Jones' request prayer for their newest grandson Mateo. He has epilepsy. Also, their son Danny Jr. has Meniere's disease. The Jones' report an average attendance of 74 in Sunday School and 5 saved in February in their church in the Rio Grande Valley.

IBFI May Fellowship
Mon.—Thurs., May 21st—24th
Fort Worth, Texas

****Please remember our 2018 mission store during the IBFI May Fellowship meeting. Gift cards are always greatly appreciated by our missionaries!***