

Prayer Supporter Update for Bob and Karen Hamilton

We are missionaries living in the town of Santo Antônio do Içá in the State of Amazonas, Brazil

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“Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.” Psalms 128:1

As I write this update, Karen and I are returning from eight days in Manaus. We left Santo Antonio Saturday afternoon, November 2nd on a fast boat for Manaus. 23 hours later, on Sunday afternoon at 3:30, our boat pulled into Manaus. This morning, we got on the boat about 5:45. We are looking forward to arriving tomorrow morning in Santo Antonio.

Praise:

1. Thank you for praying for us to be sensitive to God’s leading as to our ministries this term. I (Bob) continue discipleship meetings with 3 young men and a married man each week. Both Karen and I are involved with the mid-week teen group, Rayovac. I also attend the men’s encouragement group on Saturday nights and occasionally bring the devotional. It has been good working again with Lloyd on the plane. Lloyd helped me get used to flying the Petrel in preparation for my trip to Manaus to try to renew my Brazilian pilot certification. Usually on Monday through Friday, Karen has been working at the mission hospital each morning with food preparation and sewing costumes for the Christmas program. Recently, she started taking notes for the nurses as the patients are examined.

2. If my flying privileges were to be reinstated during our time in Manaus, we would need God to move a few mountains. For the previous month, I had been trying to set everything up. I was not very successful. At 6:45 last Monday morning, I was waiting at a nearby hospital for a series of blood tests. This was the first step to renew my medical certification to fly. At that point, I still did not have the required doctor’s order for the blood tests. Neither did I know what tests were to be performed. For the past month, I had been calling and messaging the doctor, but without success. As I sat waiting, I continued to message the doctor. It was 7am when my turn came up to talk with the scheduling person. I decided to call the doctor. After greeting him, I gave my cell phone to the attendant, and the doctor told her what tests I needed. After my blood was drawn, I was told to come back Friday after 10 am to pick up the results. I still needed an echocardiogram, a treadmill stress test, and a psychological evaluation. I understood that my medical would be validated within 48 hours of the time the results were turned in. That would be about noon on Tuesday. I needed to take a written test and then schedule the flight test. My doctor met with me at 8:15 Wednesday morning. He was able to get the three medical test results and approve my physical certification. My written and flight tests involved four trips to the airport and hours of waiting to meet with the right people, but on Saturday morning we were filling out the final application to renew my license. Lord willing in about a week, I will be able to go Online and print my medical certificate and renewed pilot’s license. God did remove the mountains!

3. Karen and I enjoyed the fast internet available in Manaus. We really appreciated the Uber App and the good service they provided. I had several good opportunities to witness to the drivers and to other people who attended me. For several days, I had asked for directions to the hangar of our friend who owns a Petrel. The “Map” application on my phone did not show how to get to the hangar. God brought “Google Earth” to my mind and the Internet allowed me to look at the buildings. I took my best guess and took a screenshot which I sent to my friend asking if his hangar was in the picture. My friend quickly sent back the picture with a mark indicating which building was his hangar. The Uber driver pulled over, took a look at the screenshot and drove me to the place pictured. It was starting to rain as I got out of the car outside of a fence around the hangar. I took a “selfie” with the hangar in the back ground and sent it to my friend with the following note, “Acho que cheguei” (I think I’ve arrived.) He texted back, “Chegou” (You’ve arrived) and showed up 15 minutes later.

4. While I was going to my appointments, Karen made use of the fast Internet to catch up some of our financial reports. She also made purchases for ministry in the Santo Antonio area (along with finding some Christmas presents). We took Sunday off to relax. On Monday, our last day in Manaus, we made final purchases. Karen had been looking all week for a zipper foot for her sewing machine. We prayed again at lunch for God to direct us according to His will. Finally at one store, we were told there was a store only six or eight blocks away. I handed the sales clerk my phone opened to “Maps” and asked him to show us the location of the store. We walked to the store and after several tries the attendant found the zipper foot that Karen needed.

5. During September and October, we had several big problems with the Petrel airplane. The prop that was repaired in France and that Karen and I brought back from the States in August only lasted 12 flight hours before it started to come apart again. We put the original prop on the plane until a new propeller arrived in October. God helped us to find several broken fixtures on the engine before they became serious problems. Having replaced, adjusted, and balanced the propeller three times, and finding the cause of an intermittently rough running engine, we finally have a smooth engine that is giving us the best performance we’ve ever had with the Petrel. During the middle of all these problems Lloyd and I sat down and talked together about God’s direction. We agreed that God’s will is seldom achieved by following the easiest course of action.

6. Through God's blessing and much hard work on the part of our co-worker, Doctor Chip Phillips, we have the best Internet service that we've had since returning in August.

Current Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for Bob and the four men he is discipling. In Luke 11:28, after someone comments to Jesus about the blessings His mother experienced, Jesus says that those who hear His Word and keep it are more blessed than Mary. Recently our pastor preached on the importance of modeling the truths of Scripture with our lives. It is a joy to meet weekly with these men and be encouraged as we study the truths of God's Word together.

2. My continued checkout in the Petrel. We did not know how my check flight would be conducted in Manaus. Lloyd flew with a Christian friend to demonstrate his abilities in the Petrel. The friend owns a Petrel, but he is not an instructor. So, like Lloyd did, I would probably be flying from the right side of the airplane. Lloyd flew with me in the right seat about 4 hours. That really helped while I was in Manaus. Now that I'm past the check ride, Lloyd will be working with me in the left seat to renew and refine my skills of going into tighter areas that we sometimes encounter as we fly into remote communities.

3. My ministry in Amaturá. The church boat that I used to go to Amaturá has not been used since I left for furlough. I need to check the boat and it's documents out so I can start making monthly trips to encourage this congregation that still has no local pastor.

4. God's continued direction and blessing on the Christmas presentation. This presentation will be shown in the largest building available downtown for four nights around Christmas time. It involves over 130 actors (at least, 60 of them are children).

Thank you again for all your prayers and financial support! Karen and I are so thankful for the ministries God has for us here in Amazonas.

Serving Him together,
Bob and Karen



Jimby helps Lloyd and I remove the lower wings to replace the main fuel lines. In May 2018, we replaced all the other rubber parts, but postponed these lines as they are more labor intensive.



Bob replacing the cable to our Wi-Fi antenna.



We found this little lizard in our bed! Karen said that she doesn't mind this type of wild life.



At the top of our hotel named the "Taj Mahal". (It was 20 dollars/night cheaper than the Quality Hotel.)



Another view from the roof of our hotel. The building on the left with a beautiful roof is the historic theater opened in the 1896 during the rubber boom. It is said to be the most famous landmark of Manaus. In the background is the only bridge that crosses the Black River. It spans over two miles of water. As far as we know, there are still no bridges that cross the Amazon River.



The man to Bob's left is a Christian friend who owns this Petrel and allowed Bob to use it to take his check ride.



Bob's check ride



The place where the Black River flows into the Amazon River. During my check ride, I made several landings on the Black River.



The Crystal at 5:30 Tuesday morning. Our ride back to Santo Antonio, and our favorite fast boat.



Our last day in Manaus. Walking back to our hotel, the furthest building in the back ground. We walked right by the historic theater mentioned earlier.