

Prayer Supporter Update for Bob and Karen Hamilton  
**Serving with:** ABWE (the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism)  
**Sending church:** Calvary Baptist in Ypsilanti, MI  
**Our WhatsApp phone numbers:** Bob: +55 97 8414-1666  
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We live in the town of Santo Antônio do Iça  
in the State of Amazonas, Brazil

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Wednesday, April 28, 2021

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,  
that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” Hebrews 13:15

Dear family and friends,

#### **Praises:**

1. Karen's health continues to improve. She is back to doing nearly all types of housework except carrying laundry up stairs to hang up or bringing dry laundry back downstairs. (She still washes and puts away nearly all our laundry, which I think are the hardest parts.) She has not felt stable enough to drive a motorcycle again yet.
2. Karen and I are very thankful for all the prayers on our behalf, along with all of God's answers, for the health problems we have come through this year.
3. Recently, as I paid our electric bill, the man attending me asked how I was doing since I'd had Covid. Another time, as Anna and I were buying a new blender to replace the one that burned out, the girl helping us asked Anna, "Would you like a discount?" You can guess Anna's response, and the girl led us to the owner's desk. After giving us a discount, the owner asked how Karen was getting along after having Covid. Next she asked about Jimby. Later, Anna explained to me that Jimby helped with the woman's father who recently died of Covid. Each situation gives opportunity to give a quick testimony of God's sovereignty and goodness. Also, Karen and I are reminded that God has left us here on earth so He must still have things for us to do.
4. A week or so ago, we had a family over for supper and games. The husband is a man I was discipling until I went to Manaus. While Karen was talking with the wife, the husband asked me if I had any more discipleship books available. He had finished all 13 lessons and was needing books for two of the young men he is mentoring. As I handed him the books, I let him know he had just filled me with joy. Earlier, Anna had shared with me that he was working as a mentor with the young people in the same mentoring program that she is involved with.
5. Before beginning this furlough, we are looking forward to staying with Karen's brother and his wife in Milwaukee where we already have an appointment with a cardiologist on May 24<sup>th</sup> to see how well my meds are working. Arriving on May 7<sup>th</sup>, will allow some time for us to complete the quarantine required by the cardiologist. After I was put on certain meds by the cardiologist in Manaus, I was never rechecked to confirm that my current prescription is the best one.

#### **Requests:**

1. Next Tuesday morning (May 4<sup>th</sup>) Karen and I plan to be tested for Covid again. If we both have a negative test result, at about 4:30 pm, we will be getting on an express boat headed for Manaus. If the test results are positive for either of us, I will need to renew my passport and our return to the States will probably be delayed for a month or so. We know God controls how our Covid tests will go. Please pray that we will use each opportunity to please Him and encourage those around us.
2. We hope to arrive in Manaus by 6 pm Wednesday. I need to revisit one of the testing centers and try to get a receipt that is accepted by our medical insurance. We hope to get a good night's sleep for our 11:30 am departure to São Paulo. If all goes according to our plans, we should be landing in Chicago about 11:30 am on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for God's protection and direction of these flights.
3. Please pray for us to recognize God's provision of a reliable vehicle for us to use this furlough.

This furlough, we especially want to see everyone that we were not able to see during our last furlough (January-June 2019). Bob's heart seems to be doing fine on his current medication, but until we get the approval of the cardiologist, we do not think it prudent to start setting up our schedule. We expect this furlough to last about a year.

It's probably obvious, but Karen and I thought we should remind everyone not to send mail for us to Brazil. We hope to be able to send you a Stateside mailing address in a month or so.

I'd like to close with two short stories and a closing thought. First, you may not think of a blender as being very important, but our cupuaçu tree is producing the most fruit it has ever yielded during our nearly four years here in Santo Antonio. The best ways to enjoy cupuaçu are as juice or as a frozen, ice cream-like dessert, and you need a blender to make either! Second, earlier this week, I went to get a scoop of ice cream while Jimby and Anna were eating supper. Jimby was surprised that I would get ice cream when açai was available, and he commented, you can get ice cream in the States a lot easier than you can get açai! Since I'd had açai every day for the past three days, I was more hungry for ice cream. Now let's put those two stories together. When we first moved to Benjamin Constant in January of 2000, we did not know how to make juice or frozen dessert from cupuaçu. We had to wait for the right river boat to buy ice cream, and we did not like açai. It is amazing how God can put you in a strange place, and that place can become your home!

Trusting Him together,  
Bob and Karen



Monday, Lloyd and I went for my last ride in the Petrel. We flew over this Indian town of Betania (Bethany). A red arrow marks the church. The path going up to the church is the steepest I have ever climbed. If you set a box down on the top 100 feet of the path, it will slide downhill on it's own. I'm still wondering how they poured the cement for that sidewalk!



Next, we flew over Amaturá. The old church building is marked with a blue circle. The new church building, where we helped pour the floor the end of 2019, is marked with a red circle. We park the boat on the small river along the top of the picture. The Amazon River flows along the top right corner. We stay in a hotel near the small river, so walking the 7 or so blocks to and from church three times (Saturday night, and twice on Sunday) is pretty good exercise.



This morning the mission hospital had a good-bye breakfast for us. The sign says, "Eternal gratitude for your time with us and your dedicated service to the Lord."



Karen and our aviation partner, Lloyd getting coffee. Usually coffee here is made in a pan and strained through a cloth bag. Like southern tea, it is always sweet, but delicious.



Before we ate breakfast, we played some games and sang. Anna and I teamed up for charades. We did alright on "mouse" and "dog". I don't know if we received credit when someone correctly guessed politician, but the word was actually policeman. We struck out on capybara!



Today was not a good day to be on a diet!