

"In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah." Psalms 44:8

Praise:

1. In July, I made three trips to Fonte Boa and on to Castelo with Pastor Nen. The last trip was for the conference the



last weekend in the month to dedicate the church building and parsonage that have been under construction for the past three years. The conference went very well with over 200 people attending. About half of them came from the parent churches in Fonte Boa. That group arrived in two riverboats, which took about 16 hours to get to Castelo.

Pastor Nen and I had the privilege of leading two young people and three adults in the sinner's prayer to receive Christ as personal savior. Several rainstorms came through Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Sunday afternoon a bigger storm arrived with strong winds. The stake on the shore securing the two riverboats pulled loose and the boats started drifting towards the airplane. I started shouting in Portuguese to start the engines on the boats as I ran to try to protect the plane. Both boats were started up and driven back to their "parking places". As the rain and wind

continued, I realized I could not move the plane safely with the wind blowing so strongly. We had parked the plane away from where the boats would be parking, but with all the people coming, the canoes were uncomfortably close to the plane. I knew if a heavy wooden canoe bumped against the plane there would be little chance of being able to fly the plane back to Santo Antonio. What to do?

So often, I have taught that Philippians 4:6 commands us not to worry about anything. I went to the abandoned house where I'd hung my hammock the previous night and began to pray for wisdom, for God's protection, and for me to have the correct response to the rest of the conference. I ended my prayer time asking God to make the storm pass soon if it was His will for me to fly the plane out that Sunday afternoon instead of waiting for Monday morning as I had originally planned to do. As the rain continued, I went and visited with Pastor Nen, sharing my concerns and prayer request. I'd calculated that I still had enough fuel to fly back to Santo Antonio. Pastor Nen agreed with me that if the weather cleared it would be good for me to fly out as we were expecting more canoes to arrive bringing more people for the evening service. The weather cleared a few minutes before 4:00PM, my latest take off time to allow me to get back to SAI well before dark. Pastor Nen would return with his wife on the riverboats to Fonte Boa. I took off from Castelo and headed west enroute to SAI. As I flew towards home, I kept an eye on the route to the south towards Fonte Boa, which was my alternate if the weather was too bad to fly home. God made a path between the storms, and I arrived home about 5:30, an hour before sunset. Pastor Nen called me the next night to let me know that several more people were saved during the evening service. Right after the evening service ended, the ones from Fonte Boa left and rode all night on the riverboats, arriving ten hours later. We are very thankful that God gave such a good conference.



2. After one of our trips to Castelo, Pastor Nen and I went back to visit Gaiavota. We had no way to let them know we were coming. When we arrived, one of the men invited Pastor Nen to go fishing with him. I stayed at the community and had a chance to visit in several of the homes including a good visit with Seu Teco. I had my little Fire electronic reader, and we enjoyed looking at pictures and listening to music. I've found this tablet to be very useful as it has about 8 hours of battery so even if there is no electricity, I can still read my notes and Bibles. We had a good fish supper that night and I brought a message about the sad life of Abraham's nephew, Lot. Seu Teco still has not made his decision to accept Christ as his savior. Please keep praying for him.

3. Thank you for praying for our Bible classes on Tuesdays in Betânia and our aviation ministry taking the pastors to Indian communities. I started visiting the pastors in their homes after classes on Tuesdays. I felt led to visit one of the church services on a Sunday about three weeks ago. For the past five weeks, I've been making up special lessons for the pastors. God seems to be blessing all these new efforts. Four pastors have become much more involved in our Tuesday Bible studies and flights to the remote communities have resumed. I've been especially encouraged by Pastor Agustinho, whom I met at the church service three weeks ago. There is a picture of him at the end of this prayer letter. Both last week and yesterday were rainy for my Tuesday classes, but God gave special blessings both days during our classes. On my birthday, August 7, I got lost on the way to Betânia. How embarrassing after going there for the past ten months! Two weeks ago, along with rain, I ran out of gas on the way home; I'm suspecting someone filled their 2-liter pop bottles from my gas tank. On my trip three weeks ago on Sunday, we passed a big snake, 8 to 10 inches in diameter and at least ten feet long! So it is not all fun and games, but God is blessing, and

we are thankful to be involved. Last Tuesday, we decided to have a pastor's breakfast next Thursday morning in Betânia. I want to hear more of their testimonies of how God is working in the visits to the remote communities and possibly have a class on Matthew 18:15-17.

4. Several prayer letters back, Karen and I asked for prayer for a young unmarried couple whom we've been trying to encourage. Several weeks ago, the young lady gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Karen stayed with the mother in the hospital during her labor. The daddy was present too and very grateful for Karen's help. God has given Karen wonderful mothering skills and she was able and glad to be a big encouragement to this couple. Last week, they



asked us to participate in their wedding and sign their marriage license as witnesses. Last Tuesday night we went and signed the required document and met with our local national pastor to schedule a thanksgiving service on September 22. We really believe this couple love God and each other. During their thanksgiving celebration at church, they are willing to confess their sin in living together before being married. Now they want to live in obedience to God. Thank you for praying! Please continue praying for them and for God to be glorified at that celebration on September 22.

Current Prayer Requests:

1. I wrote most of this letter last Wednesday as Karen and I traveled on a fast boat for eight to nine hours to Tabatinga. We enjoyed a few days with Samuel, Bea, and Joshua (Jojo) across the border from Tabatinga in Leticia, Colombia. Thursday afternoon, I had a dental appointment, and that evening I went to our church in Benjamin Constant to attend their midweek service. It was a special prayer vigil and I had a good visit with their new pastor whom I'd not met before. God gave Karen and me a good return trip to Santo Antonio where Jimby and Anna informed us that we are having guests for lunch today. In just two months, we will again be on one of these fast boats to start our vacation and furlough time. There is so much to do during these next two months. Please pray for us to trust God and have the right priorities!



2. Our second-born child, Carla, is now 37 and a mother of 5 beautiful children ages 4 months to 7 years old. Ever since Carla was about 15 years old, she's had very low energy. She and her husband Joe, continually pray for and seek treatments that will give Carla more energy. They are excited about the possibilities of her most recent treatments in a barometric chamber. Carla has requested that we ask you to pray for God's leading and will to be done during this series of treatments where Carla spends 45 minutes or so in a chamber with higher than normal atmospheric pressure. The idea is that the higher pressure, allows her body to absorb more oxygen and allow healing to the areas that were damaged in a sports accident when she was 15. Carla is over halfway through the series of treatments. She is happy to have some improvement in her energy level. For example, she is now doing the shopping for groceries, something she has not been able to do for years.

3. Please pray for God's provision of visas for Samuel's wife, Bea and their son, Joshua, to visit the States during the first part of our upcoming furlough. We have been praying for God to allow our whole family to attend the wedding of our youngest child, Chris, to the love of his life, Bre, January 3, 2019. During the month of September, Samuel's family will be traveling to Bogota, Colombia to request these visas. As you pray, please pray for Anna and her husband Jimby about this matter. Jimby recently traveled to Recife, on the east side of Brazil, to apply for his visa to visit the States, and his request was rejected. The reason given was that he was unable to provide proof that he would return to Brazil. Jimby was returning from his trip to Recife as Karen and I were leaving for Tabatinga last Wednesday. Finally last night after our evening service here in Santo Antonio, we had the chance to talk with Jimby about his trip. He gave us some new information. After the attendant told Jimby that his request for a visa was denied, she suggested that we have a family member present his information at an American Embassy in the US. They might offer a special permission for him to attend the wedding. We do believe God can still make a way for Jimby to visit the USA and attend Chris' wedding, but we also realize Jimby may be needed more here in Santo Antonio during that time.

4. This past month has gone by so quickly, that we've made very little progress in setting up our schedule to come visit each of your churches that are interested in having us report on our past two years in Brazil. We do look forward to seeing as many of you as possible from January-June, 2019. We would welcome hearing from any of you that are in a position to help us schedule a date to come to your church. Karen and I expect to be without children or other family members this furlough, and so we should have time free during the week to visit with any interested in your homes or ours.

5. We are currently scheduling meetings from February 3 – June 23, 2019. We have tentative dates set for March 11-17, 31; and April 27-29.

Serving Him together, Bob and Karen

Our residence address in Brazil:
Estrada São Salvador, Nº 1015;
Bairro de Campinas, CEP: 69680-000;
Santo Antônio do Içá, AM, Brasil

Sending Church:
Calvary Baptist
1007 Ecorse Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Serving with:
ABWE – The Association of Baptist for World Evangelism
PO Box 8585
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Just a few more pictures



Here is another picture at Castelo. You can just barely see the Petrel on the far right. You can also see that the boats are parked pretty close to the plane. They moved closer during the last storm. We expected this space would fill up more for the evening service, and it did.



Arriving at the small community of Boa Vista, about 35 miles to the northwest of Santo Antonio. This indigenous community has no pastor except when we bring them (20 minutes in the Petrel or six hours in their small wooden canoes). One time I was supposed to pick the pastor up at 2pm on a Monday. I did not get there until 4:30. He did not think I was coming, and so he had scheduled another service for 6pm. I was glad he was willing to cancel that service, especially when we arrived back in Betânia and his small children were on the shore waiting for us.



Well, we've landed on the Iça River, next to the community of Boa Vista, but there is too much current and too little usable shore to safely dock. So someone had to bring Pastor Agustinho to the plane in a canoe as we quietly float downriver. I am securing the bow of the canoe, and you can see the canoe driver securing the upper wing of the Petrel so the canoe does not touch the plane. (The driver is standing in the canoe. I'd have preferred he stay seated and maintain separation from the plane using the lower wing, but he could not understand my Portuguese, and his way worked fine since he has excellent balance.)



Now Pastor Agustinho is seated in the plane and the canoe is headed back to shore. I've just started the motor so I can steer clear of obstacles as we get our seat belts and headphones on and get ready for takeoff. I've pointed at my cell phone (mounted on the glare shield of the plane) and asked Pastor Agustinho to smile for the camera. I'm laughing at his joyful expression.



Discipleship with Djava. Our hour sessions go by too quickly for him, and so he asked if we can meet two times each week. We don't usually get in both sessions, but with two chances, we usually get together at least once a week. Shadow, our all black cat likes Djava too!



Tiago is another discipleship student. He is pictured here in Amaturá where he went with me in August. When the water is twenty feet higher, all of that sand bar is covered and even the big boats can cross to dock right here in town. Tiago is one of the leaders in the young people's group. His health is not good, and he has a sister that desperately needs a kidney transplant. Lord willing, I'll

be taking another discipleship student to Amaturá this coming weekend. Amaturá has not had a pastor for nearly 12 years.