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# In Touch

## ACRE INTERNATIONAL

Acre Gospel Mission

Prayer Letter ~ Apr/May 2021

## Update on Brazil



We are grateful for all your support and encouragement. Deputation work has been largely curtailed to Zoom and on-line meetings, which have been very good. However, with the situation hopefully improving we look forward to meeting our friends and supporters in the not-too-distant future.

We have been deeply touched by the spontaneous outpouring of love and concern for the emergency situation in Brazil. Although conditions have improved a little in Manaus, the Amazonian variant of the virus is reaping havoc in other parts of the country. It is a very serious situation and we plead with you to continue to pray for Brazil. We are thankful for our brave colleagues who have been risking their own lives to take aid to families who are in critical need. Quite a few pastors and Brazilian missionaries have succumbed to the virus. Thank you again for all your support.

*Victor Maxwell*

**Acre Meetings** Please remember to join us for updates and the Acre ZOOM Prayer Meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 8pm. Meeting ID: 4350810967. Password: 150967  
Zoom prayer Meetings will be on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month a 8.00pm with same codes as above.



## Pastor Herberth Fernandes and Team - Hebron Evangelical Church, Manaus



In the months of January, February and March, the city of Manaus experienced extremely difficult days due to the pandemic of COVID-19. A devastating wave of widespread infection, lack of hospital structure, lack of ICU beds, lack of oxygen and medication has created public health chaos with a large number of daily deaths, desperate people, bereaved families and very sad days.



We are so thankful to the Lord for those, who through Acre Gospel Mission, felt led to give so generously to help us help others. So many hundreds of people have been reached out to here in the city of Manaus through your generosity. We have been distributing in various places in the city of Manaus to needy families giving out food hampers, medicines for the treatment of COVID-19, prevention products such as sanitiser and masks and oxygen cylinder kits to help in the treatment of the disease, since many were treated at home. We also helped out financially with funeral expenses for poor families that had lost loved ones. We also have also been able to reach people out in the Leprosarium, in the elderly people's shelter and orphanage.



In each home we visited, we were able to leave literature and also share from God's Word. We have also been able to send aid to the interior towns of the State of Amazonas such as Canutama and Maués where we have teams working along side us.

We want to say a very big thank you for all who have participated in this ministry, following the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in Matthew 9: 35 - "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

**Pastor Herberth**

## Pastor Fabiomar & Team in Labrea

"We are so thankful to all those in the UK and Ireland who contributed to the Emergency Appeal here in Brazil. Many members of our church were affected by the pandemic and many were sick and some died with Covid19. We thank you for your prayers and practical help during this terrible situation. The team here were able to distribute many food parcels as you can see in the photographs and also we were able to assist quite a number of people with medical help. We distributed masks, sanitiser and medicines. We also had the use of digital thermometers and blood pressure machines. Many people were sick from the virus but were nursed at home. We were also able to help some to get travel to hospital. Thank you also for praying for Marilene (Fabiomar's wife) who was very ill with Covid. We praise the Lord that she was able to return to Labrea last week and is keeping better.







Can we say again “thank you” for all of your practical help and prayers. Here are some of the people who have been helped here in Labrea.”



## Pastor Antoildson & Team in Acre

**Rio Branco:** Many hundreds of families have been reached not only with food parcels, medicines and sanitisers but also with the message of the Gospel. In every home the team was allowed to share from the Word of God and pray with the families before also leaving literature.



## Pastor Antoildson & Team in Acre





## Pastor Antoildson & Team in Acre



**Sena Madureira:** Pastor Antoildson and his team (including Samuel Poots from Northern Ireland who is a missionary with NTM) travelled on dangerous flooded roads in a lorry to distribute over 350 food parcels and water containers to families in great need because of the severe flooding. They were also able to hire out a small boat to travel on the river to those who had lost everything in the floods. Please continue to pray for the people of this town as they deal with the aftermath of the floods and also have many people sick with Covid19.







**Tarauacá:** Gleiciane and her team distributing aid to the flood victims in the town because of the severe flooding.



### Feijo Aid Distribution:

Israel and Jersilene (Lucimar's nephew and niece) distributed aid to over forty families along the river outside Feijo. These families not only received food parcels but also copies of a Bible study book.

They had to climb steep river banks to reach some of the families. They were also able to share God's Word and pray in each home.







Food distribution in Feijo from some of the church members.

The floods even brought the dinner into your front garden....



### Cruzeiro Do Sul:

Missionary Eliane helped us to distribute aid to the town. She also had opportunities to share in the local school and young people's home and leave personal hygiene packs for the children and young people along with Gospel literature.



Bringing aid into the local schools for the children



## Boca Do Acre: Pastor Antoldson and team.

Pastor Antoldson and the team packed up over 300 food parcels and water containers to travel the four-hour journey on extremely dangerous roads from Rio Branco to Boca Do Acre at the beginning of March. They had great opportunities of reaching many families not only in the town but also along the river. The severe flooding meant that many people had lost their homes and were living in communal military tents or even in their canoes. Because of this Covid 19 spread rapidly across the town. Please continue to pray for these families as they rebuild their homes and for those who have been ill and for the families who have lost loved ones due to the virus.



Pastor Antoldson and most of the team that travelled to Boca Do Acre contracted Covid19 and were extremely ill. Pastor Antoldson was in hospital for a number of days as was Alfonso. This photo is when Pastor Antoldson was released from hospital. Please pray for him as he now recovers at home. Pray for Alfonso, Paula, Nilzomar and Cassiano who were also members of the team and have all been sick with Covid.

Churches are not back yet with face to face services. The new variants of Covid19 in Brazil are very strong and do not respect colour, sex or social class. Many in the churches are ill. Thank you for your prayers.







Raimundo Lobato from Canutama writes:



"We arrived back in town in March only to find the river overflowing its banks. The town is totally flooded and our house was swamped. I am glad to say the river level is now going down. The church had been closed because of the pandemic but next Sunday we hope to open the church to receive the congregation indoors. Because the church was flooded we have to do a major clean before we can have our services there. We ask you please to pray for us. After the floods there is always epidemics of dysentery and other illnesses. We are trusting of God will keep us all safe and continue to bless us in the work of the gospel. We have been able to also distribute aid

and medicines to the people here in our town. *Thank you for praying for us. May God bless you all*

## The Jansma Family

Kristi Jansma wrote to thank those who sent gifts for her and her family..

*Dear Acre Gospel Mission, I wanted to let you know how grateful I am for the £10,000 you sent from the friends there in Northern Ireland. This generous gift of love will be such a tremendous help to our family during this difficult time. While we are deeply heartbroken at the loss of Phil, your love and prayers are helping to carry our family day by day. Thank you so very much.*

*Sincerely, Kristi Jansma*



Kristi and the children returned to USA at the end of February to have time to come to terms with Phil's homecall and also to plan and prepare for their future. Please continue to remember them in prayer.

**W**e trust that as you have read the articles and looked through some of the photographs that we have been send through (*There have been hundreds*), that it will inspire you to continue to pray for the brothers and sisters of Brazil during the pandemic there. Last week the national news reported that over 4000 people had died from Covid symptoms in just one day. Please pray for The North East and for our Pastors and their families there as they are now experiencing a greater increase in cases and people dying.

We thank you for your amazing contributions for the Emergency Brazil Appeal. As we write we have sent out just over £100,000 to help in the pandemic. Your giving has helped many thousands of families in Amazonas and Acre. We want to say a huge thank you!!!

Keith Lindsay

*"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again"*

Prov. 19 v 17



**We are planning DV The Killyhevlin Autumn Break Mon 15<sup>th</sup> - Thur 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 Booking forms available soon**