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ACRE INTERNATIONAL Acre Gospel Mission Prayer Letter May/June 2022

Pastor Luis & Aldeniede - *Passa é Fica, NE Brazil*

We began the year with many activities, and we thank God we were able to do these things without any problems. We have been able to hold Bible studies, Gospel outreach, and we always encourage the church members to invite others, and indeed many visitors did arrive. We were able to restart the children's work at the end of January. We had hoped to start a reading class for the children using the Bible, but this has not yet been possible. Alongside getting the Bibles we need for these classes, we have some other things to sort out, and we continue to pray for this potential project.



My wife has been meeting with two ladies, Iris and Socorro, to study God's Word. These ladies have also been attending the meetings in the church. Iris is the mother of a recent convert called Luiz. He trusted the Lord in February. He has also been attending the meetings and shows good interest in learning from God's Word. The ladies' meetings have also been going well, they meet every two weeks for prayer, praise, Bible study and fellowship. We continue with the radio program weekly on Sundays from 7-8 in the morning. Many unsaved are listening in to these broadcasts, and we pray many will accept the Lord through this ministry.

On 12th and 13th of March we held meetings to commemorate six years of the work here in the town. Many came from the surrounding churches to be with us for this event, alongside many local people who are still unsaved. On 14th May we will have a meeting to dedicate the new church building. We are expecting many folk to attend along with other pastors, missionaries, church representatives and of course our own congregation. We hope also many people from the town.

Thank you for your prayers for the work here, and we again ask that you continue to pray for our family, that we can be a blessing here, for the believers here to stay firm in their faith, and be a witness to others through their lives and, for those unbelievers that we have contact with, that soon they will accept the Lord as their Saviour. May God bless you for your interest and support of the work here in this town here in this part of Brazil.

Dr Bill Woods



Bill Writes: "I very much value your prayers as I travel to Brazil, leaving on 3rd May DV. A friend is travelling with me to London. This is a long journey and may be difficult. I had so many side effects from the cancer treatment that I had to stop for three months. The cancer cells have remained very low which I praise the Lord for. I have now recommenced the treatment but not the full dosage each time. After 58 years serving the Lord in Amazonas, I feel like I am going home!"

? ? QUIZ ? ?

This is a wee quiz to see how much you still remember about the story of Bill Woods. If you answered all the questions send us a photo of this page or send us this answer sheet via post. We will have some nice prizes for those who knew all the answers and even for those who participated.
Email to acrekidscorner@gmail.com or send to M. Ferguson, Acre Kids, 27 Smith Street, Moneymore, BT45 7PF

1. Bill grew up in Belfast...
 - a) as the oldest of five children
 - b) as the youngest of five children
 - c) as the middle child
2. During the war the family moved to Ballygowan into...
 - a) an old Mission Hall
 - b) an old Orange Hall
 - c) an old school house
3. One day in Bill's life was very special. He asked God for forgiveness. Do you remember the date?
 - a) 20th July 1952
 - b) 20th July 1954
 - c) 20th July 1960
4. Bill's Mum and Dad wanted him to go to university and train to be a...
 - a) doctor
 - b) teacher
 - c) solicitor
5. Bill heard about the Mission in Brazil from a Missionary called...
 - a) Millie Harvey
 - b) Maud Harvey
 - c) Mollie Harvey
6. Arriving in Brazil Bill had to learn...
 - a) Spanish
 - b) Portuguese
 - c) French
7. Bill travelled on the rivers in a small boat called...
 - a) Mensageiro da Paz - Messenger of Peace
 - b) Mensageiro de Amor - Messenger of Love
 - c) Mensageiro de Esperança - Messenger of Hope
8. During his boat trips Bill came across the dreadful disease of...
 - a) Malaria
 - b) Leprosy
 - c) Typhoid
9. Where did Bill study medicine?
 - a) University of Rio de Janeiro
 - b) University of Manaus
 - c) University of Sao Paolo
10. After University he did a 2 year training to learn more about...
 - a) eye surgery
 - b) plastic surgery
 - c) organ transplant
11. The state of Acre is the smallest of Brazil but it is the same size as...
 - a) Northern Ireland
 - b) Great Britain
 - c) Scotland
12. Friends from Northern Ireland sent money for new equipment, and so Bill was able to buy...
 - a) a portable operating microscope
 - b) a portable X-Ray machine
 - c) a portable ultrasound scanner

If you are interested to receive this small Kids-magazine in the future, let us know and we will send it directly to you. Your parents can send us an email with your address to acrekidscorner@gmail.com. This magazine will be sent to you free of charge five times in a year. Please tell us if you prefer it as a pdf file or a printed version. Now that we have finished Bill's story, we will be taking a small summer break and will start with a new missionary story around September. Please let us know before that, if you want to get it.

Dr Tom & Lucimar Geddis

We are both very well and looking forward to visiting Brazil from 26th April and returning back on 19th July DV. We very much value your prayers for safety in travel. My mother arrives in Rio Branco on 3rd May and it will be a blessing to see her after so many years. Thank you all for your prayers.



Pastor Lobato - Canutama, Acre

We are still suffering from the effects of the pandemic. Many people have not yet returned to church, although we have roughly about 50-60 people attending each week. We hope that things will get better this year now that the effects of the pandemic are easing. We ask for prayer as we contemplate some projects which we have planned - we want to put new roof tiles on the church building, we want to construct a church building for the congregation at Vila Belo Monte, and we need to renovate the manse in Canutama. So we value your prayers as we continue this work here in Canutama.



Please remember the Acre Zoom Prayer Meetings

First Monday of each month at 8pm

The codes are - Meeting ID: 4350810967 - Password: 150967

Pastor Plinio - Sena Madureira, Acre

As you already know, I help here with the work of the church in Sena Madureira, in all aspects of the work in the church and the congregations attached to it. This year I am also helping as a teacher in one of the adult Sunday School classes.

I also help with the congregations in the more rural areas, and each month I go along to these churches and work alongside the leadership and members there.

During the rainy season it is more difficult to get to some of these churches, the roads become impassable by car and I have to go on foot, the same goes for the members who attend there also. When summer arrives, it becomes much easier to get there.

I also help with a church called Tam, in the city. Each congregation has their own leadership and so I work along with them to help them in whatever their need is. Despite the difficulties in getting to some of these places it is a blessing to work alongside the brothers and sisters there in the Work of the Lord. It is a privilege to be able to preach the Gospel in these places, as many do not know the Lord as Saviour.

I also take part in three programmes which go out on the radio here. Many people listen to these programmes and hear the Gospel message through the radio. We have already heard of people who have given their lives to the Lord.

Please continue to pray for this work. Our church has many elderly folk who cannot attend the meetings any more and so I also take the time to visit these people and read and pray with them. Thank you very much for all your prayers for the work.



Pastor Iran & Socorro - Campo Redondo, NE Brazil

We continue to be thankful for all the prayerful interest for the work which we are involved with here. In Campo Redondo, the work continues although we continue to feel the effects of the pandemic. We thank God that despite the challenges, the work continues. We have about 80 people attending on Sunday (pre-pandemic it was close to 120), and attendance at the prayer meeting continues to improve also.

In Conjunto Lauro Maia, the work continues there each Wednesday, with the help of about 35 people. We have started the children's work there again on Saturdays, which has been running since the time of James and Dorrie Gunning. Numbers are small but are slowly increasing again following the pandemic.

In Malhada Vermelha, the work among the adults and the children has been going well. Every Sunday a group from the Campo Redondo church go to help with the work there. We are preparing a group for baptism, and there is a great children's work in this place.

In Serra Do Doutor, the congregation are excited for the arrival of the new worker, Pastor Marcelo and his family. With the help of the Mission and the church at Campo Redondo, Marcelo will take up the work in this place, and we look forward to great days ahead as we work together for the advancement of the Gospel. The meetings there take place on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings.

We praise God for all that He is doing in all of these regions, and we continue to ask for prayer that yet more souls will be saved and people reached with the Gospel message. Thank you and God Bless.



Testimony of Pastor Marcelo & Cristina- new worker in Serra Do Doutor, NE Brazil

It is by the grace of God that I was converted at the age of ten, but it was in my youth a miracle happened, when God saved me from drowning. I realised that God loved me and had called me to a greater involvement in the church.

When I was 23 years old (in 1996), I was challenged to do an intensive study course at Bible College, and when I returned, I took up the position of Assistant Pastor in my local church. I was also involved in helping local churches in rural areas and I did this for two and a half years. When I was 48 years old I again returned to study a Bachelor of Theology course. My wife, Cristina, also studied a CEF children's ministry course. We have been married for 22 years, and have two children, Calebe 15 and Ana Elita, aged 2. For 23 years I have also worked as a barber, and in this role I am able to speak to many people about the Lord. Our local church always recognised our calling to ministry and helped us in various ways, both financially, and helping with other needs, such as fuel and food. We have had some wonderful experiences in the rural areas, bringing Christ to a people steeped in the Roman Catholic faith, we have the testimony of sister Lucia of the Maxixe people who, was a healer in the community, and now by the glory of God she is a believer in Christ. With God nothing is impossible.

We received an invitation from Pastor Iranildo and the Campo Redondo Church to come and work alongside the congregations of Malhada Vermelha, and especially the new church plant in Serra Do Doutor. We will be involved in outreach, discipleship, preaching, building the fellowship of the brothers and sisters there. We are excited for this new challenge, and we look forward to working alongside Missao Evangelica Amazonica (MEA). We understand that 'those who put their hand to the plough, must not look back' (Luke 9:62). All the glory goes to our God!



Pastor Marcio & Luziania - Lajes Pintadas, NE Brazil



We give thanks to God that we are now back to our normal church program following the lifting of restrictions due to the pandemic. We have been able to restart the ladies' meetings, and recently the ladies met together for a conference on the International Womens' Day. We have also been able to go back into the schools to bring the good news of the Gospel to the teenagers. Our desire is to build up good communication links between ourselves, the teens and their families, and that they would come along to the church. Our Sunday school has also recommenced once again, bringing the Gospel message to the boys and girls. We are thankful both to God, and to each of you who support us in this work here in Brazil.

Pastor Carlos Souza - Manuel Urbano, Acre

Our Christmas programme seems far away in the past now, but we had a wonderful time despite the restrictions placed upon us because of the pandemic. Our theme for the Christmas programme was 'Everyone rejoice, Christ is born!' It was a time of rejoicing as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour into this world.

Moving into 2022, and we were again rejoicing that a young couple, who had been attending the church for a while now, made the decision to trust Christ. Junior and Solange are the first couple to trust the Saviour this year and they are slowly becoming more involved in the life of the church. They have three children, two girls and a boy. They have passed through difficult times as a couple but they took the



decision to fight for their marriage and, we thank God that He has helped and guided them and they continue to grow stronger as a couple again, with God's help and guidance.

We took the decision not to have a camp this year, due to several reasons, but we hope to restart many of the other church activities in the month of March, and we look forward to sharing about that in the next newsletter. We look back with thankful hearts that God has brought us through another year, with all its challenges and blessings. And we ask you to continue to pray for us, that this year may be one of blessing upon our church, that many souls would be saved, and that the church would

Pastor Ageu & Riza - Feijo, Acre

These last few months have been very profitable for us in the church. We have received three new members into the church and we have shared the Gospel with many unsaved, and some have come into the church for the first time.

We also continue our ministry to the indigenous people groups. We work with the Shanenawas and Kaxinawas people and we have had the privilege to share the Gospel message with them. Many have given their lives to Jesus Christ.

Our regular church activities have returned to normal as all restrictions have been removed and the levels of covid in the area have fallen greatly. We want to give thanks to God for all He is doing in this area and we thank God also for the faithful prayers of His people for this ministry here in Feijo.



Pastor Junior & Christina - Nisia Floresta, NE Brazil



We are very happy that the work here is getting back to normal again, both in Nisia and also in the communities of Masapa and Pau Brasil. We have not yet restarted the Sunday School as a precaution (many children are not vaccinated yet), but we hope soon to be able to start once again. Our ladies were able to hold a special meeting for the International Womens' Day, where they invited a guest speaker, and had a time of fellowship afterwards. We also had a visit from a couple who came to minister God's Word, both among the ladies, and also at a special youth event. We are currently discipling some of our young people through the Scriptures and preparing them to be baptised. I ask for prayer as I continue visitation in Pau Brasil, for the work of the Gospel there, and for new believers there. We send our thanks to each one who remembers us in prayer, and we praise God for the way in which we have been supported each month.



Pastor Walkenio & Hadassa - Montanhas, NE Brazil



The work of the church in Montanhas continues well. Recently, we were part of a conference of various churches, where we enjoyed good Bible teaching ministry and also participated in a youth conference. In our church we had two different programs. Firstly, a holiday Bible school which was well attended by the boys and girls. It was held over two days and the theme was 'following Jesus'.

Secondly, we held a meeting in the home of one of our families from the church. Other members from the church took part and many came in who would not normally attend church. The message preached that night was about the life of Judas and the consequences of neglecting Jesus.

In February we had the opportunity to hold another meeting in the home of a lady who attends the

church. Again, many unbelievers came in and heard clearly the Gospel message being preached. In March we held the Pastors' Conference in our church and this was a good time of fellowship among our colleagues who are supported by the mission.

We continue to have the vision to be able to buy a piece of ground where we can build a church and a manse. Please pray with us as we seek God's Will for this.

We are glad that most of the church meetings have returned to normal again. The ladies' meetings have recommenced, and we have started again our discipleship classes with the children, and in particular I ask you to pray for Joao Lucas, Mateus, and Guilherme. We also have discipleship classes with two adults called Joao Batista and Cleide. Pray that these classes would be a good time of learning and growth. We have also been challenging the church to get involved in supporting the work of mission, and we are pleased that they have taken that challenge seriously and have started to support a student in Bible College. We praise God for this vision they now have. Thank you for praying for my family, we are all doing well, and we value your prayers as we continue this work, there are many challenges, and we seek God's Wisdom daily.



Pastor Adriano & Maria - Varzea, NE Brazil

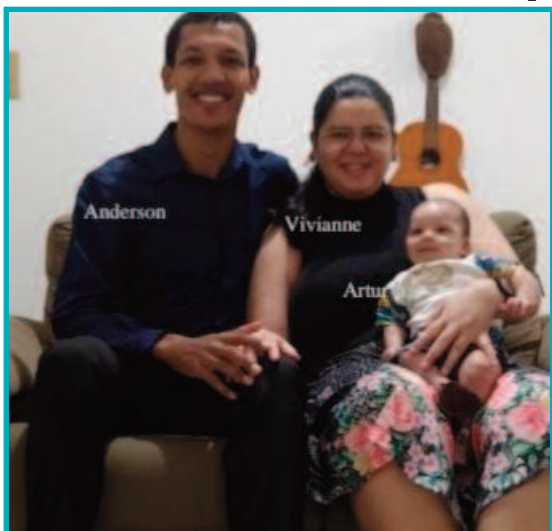
We are glad to report that in March we were able to recommence our Saturday evening children's club in the church and we had 11 children at that meeting. We also continue with the work in a place called Goianinha, a town which is about 25km from Varzea. We go there every Thursday, and we hold the meetings in the house of a man called Jose, a man who was converted in September 2021. Please pray for this town, it has been much in our prayers as a church over the years, and we ask God for wisdom as we seek His Will for the future there. We also need to carry out some work on our church building, some parts of the roof are leaking which becomes a problem when it rains. We look to the Lord for His Provision in all we seek to do. May God bless you all and thank you for your prayers.

Pastor Anderson & Vivaine - São Paulo do Potengi, NE Brazil

Pastor Diego, who is the former Pastor writes:

"I want to praise God for His help and guidance for the church at Sao Paulo do Potengi. After I left, the church leadership began to look for a new Pastor. When I left, I advised them that they should look for a man who loves the Gospel, discipleship and the Word of God, and that they should seek diligently the Will of God. In time they made contact with Pastor Anderson Felipe, who is married to a lady called Vivaine and they have a little boy of six months called Artur. Pastor Anderson has been through Bible College and during this time was also involved in helping with two congregations. He has been to the church in Sao Paulo do Potengi and has preached for them and carried out Bible studies. I am very happy and, praise God, the church has met together and has given approval that an official invitation be sent to Pastor Anderson to come and pastor the church. It is my prayer that he will have a good ministry in this church and that many souls will come to the Saviour."

Pastor Anderson shares a word of personal testimony:



"In 2005, at eight years of age, I gave my life to the Lord Jesus. I had been attending a children's club when I heard the good news of the Gospel. After trusting Christ, I continued to attend the club, and despite not having other family members in the church, God kept me during this time, and I continued attending, from 2005 to 2011.

After this I went to help a family near another sister congregation and so I got involved with this work. I have always been musical, and so I helped with the music in the church, and also with the children's work.

We then had to move house to a different district, and so I was not able to go to this church any more, but I found another church nearby which I could attend. It was in this church that I was challenged to serve in other areas. I continued with the music, with the children's work and with the youth. My pastor at that time encouraged me and

helped me to see that my studies in music could also be used for the benefit of the church.

I wanted to have a deeper theological understanding so that I could serve better in the ministry of music. In 2018, I went to Bible College and following this I worked with a church called Agua Viva. In 2021 Pastor Diego contacted me and presented to me the work of the church at Sao Paulo do Potengi. We spoke about the town and its challenges and of his call to another area to serve God. We spoke about the needs of the church, the challenges, and opportunities.

As a family, we entered into prayer for this situation to seek God's Guidance. Following prayer God did indeed guide us towards this work and to go there and serve Him at this church.

This is a big challenge for us but we are glad of the help and support from the Missao Evangelica Amazonica (MEA), which has been a great help to other workers in the service of God. Philippians 1:6 says 'He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ'."

Pastor Diego & Suzanna - Sousa, Pariaba, NE Brazil

Thank you all once again for your prayers for the work here in Sousa. Since moving here, I am getting to know the work and the various ministries and we have been planning the church program for the year.

The friendship and help of the brothers and sisters here have helped us greatly in settling into this new area. We have only been here a few months but it feels like we have been here for much longer, we have settled in so quickly. We had been praying much for wisdom and guidance as to the new church plant which we feel led to establish. And so the Lord has led us to another area of the city, in the district of Alto do Cruzeiro. There is already a children's work there, also there are Bible studies for the men and for the women, and there is a man there called Pedro Henrique who is the leader of this new work. There is now a regular public worship service taking place there too.

On Saturday's a team from our church will be on the streets of the Alto do Cruzeiro district doing outreach, literature distribution, reading the Scriptures, and offering Bible studies. Please join us in prayer for this. We praise God for this new beginning of a church in this area of the city.

We also have a work in a place called Logradouro, where we have about 20 people who attend a meeting there. We praise God for this! There is also another town called Aparecida, about 15km away from Sousa, where we would also like to begin a work, and we seek the Lord's Guidance on this.

On a personal level we want to thank you for your prayers for our son Isaque. Last year, he was diagnosed with an incurable allergy, which had to be treated with several injections in order to lower his immune system against the allergy. After a time of travelling to various doctors, they have now stopped the injections and have given advice on how to go forward, with certain changes in his diet and protection from dust. We praise God for this great improvement in his health. God bless you all and thank you for praying for us and the work here.

Altina - Schools Ministry Manaus

In my last report I spoke of how I had been challenged to buy some Bibles to give to certain teachers and directors within the school. I recently spoke with a director called Claudio, and he began to talk about the Bible that he had received. He told me that he reads it every day, and he also prays regularly with a lady in the school called Angelita, who we also know and who has a great love for the Lord. We praise God for this wonderful blessing of two praying people within the school.

In another school we go to, the classes had all been online because of the pandemic. But recently they have opened up again and the children are back in class, and so we had the privilege to go in once again and go around the classrooms to bring the Bible lesson to the children. We were able to visit 24 classes in this school, what a blessing! After this visit, we wanted to go back again, but unfortunately, we heard that the school was without electricity and water, because someone had broken in and had stolen all the electricity wires! And so repair work is ongoing but we don't know when we will be able to go back.

We have been in touch with several other schools, and many at this time are going through changes of leadership and teachers, and so we are waiting on responses from these schools to see if we can continue going there. Please pray for continued open doors for this work.

MISSION MATTERS

Monday 21st March at 8pm - Part Two: Dorrie Gunning

Monday 18th April at 8pm - IBEE School Manaus/Bairro Novo Children's Ministry, Manaus
on YouTube and Facebook Acre International Page



Coffee MORNING

14th May @ 10.30 am
T3 Conference Centre at Vic-Ryn

Special Guest Speaker: Pastor Herberth,
Hebrom Church, Manaus, Brazil

Come and enjoy coffee and a chat and hear
of the work of Acre International

Free admission – Freewill offering for the work
All warmly invited

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