



Hello boys and girls!

This is just for you. Your own magazine.

We want to take you with us on great journeys to different countries around the world and see what amazing things our big God is doing through people who decided to do great things for Him.

On the following pages you will find exciting stories, riddles, quizzes, craft ideas and many more things.

We hope you will enjoy it!

## MISSIONARY STORY

### Angel of the Amazon - Part 6

The story of Dr. Bill Woods, OBE

After his travels and studies Bill returned to Brazil and God had already prepared the perfect job for him.

God gave Bill a very important job with the government in the town of Cruzeiro do Sul and not only there but it involved the whole state of Acre.

God provided whatever was needed. He promises that if we put His work first, He will provide what we need. He is the God of the impossible and He is a faithful promise-keeping God.



Acre is the smallest state in Brazil and now you also know where our Mission got its name from. Even though it might be the smallest state in Brazil it is actually the same size as Great Britain.



Because of this and Bill's medical skills, many leprosy patients who had been left blind through the disease were given back their sight.

At the time Bill went there it had the sad reputation of being known as the "Leprosy State" where eleven out of every thousand people had the disease. Bill had a big task ahead of him. But he knew he wasn't alone. God gave him this job and God would be with him and help him. When Bill looked into the situation facing him, he met his patients and looked what their needs were. He could help with some of those problems but very often he didn't have the right equipment to help. What now? Bill knew that there was nothing impossible for God and that God would provide all these needs in time.

One of Bill's friends put him in touch with several other surgeons who then came and visited Cruzeiro do Sul and performed operations on some of the most needy patients. As well as that, some kind friends from Northern Ireland sent money for new equipment, and so Bill was able to buy a portable operating microscope which was a great help in carrying out eye surgery.

And Bill wanted to learn even more about surgery. So he took a short break from Acre and set off to America and India to learn more about reconstructive surgery, that means helping leprosy patients to regain the use of their hands and feet. When Bill returned to Acre he was in for a surprise. The Secretary of Health for the Acre heard about him and his work and invited Bill to go to Rio Branco, the State Capital, to organise the Leprosy Programme for the whole state! Bill prayed about it and felt that this was the right path for him.

Gradually the Leprosy Programme has spread further into the interior of the country.



Dedicated and trained workers travel along rivers and streams as well as deep into the Amazon jungle, always bringing hope and healing as well as the Good News of Jesus.



Do you remember the woman from the first lesson that called Bill an angel?  
He had helped to restore her sight.



Bill has received thanks and praise and awards from many people in authority in South America. Then in November 1997 he was invited to Buckingham Palace, to be given a very high award from Queen Elizabeth II.

For thousands of people suffering from leprosy Dr Bill Woods has been "an angel" or "messenger", bringing them the Good News of Jesus, but also caring for their bodies and loving them enough to find ways to help them get better and live happier lives.

Do you remember the boy with the snakebite earlier in the story? He said to Bill "I want you to DO something!" And that is what Bill has been doing ever since then. He has been finding ways to help his patients, always learning new ideas and always DOING something to help make the lives of the leprosy patients more bearable. With his and his team's expertise and with the use of new medication, leprosy has now been brought under control in Brazil.

This was an OBE, Officer of the Order of the British Empire, which was of course a great honour. Bill attended the ceremony with his brothers and sister and we can be sure they were very proud of him. Bill was delighted to receive such high honour. He knew it was not about him, but about a faithful God that took a boy from Belfast and used him in the Amazon Jungle. Bill committed his whole life to God and all he wanted was to follow God's plan for his life, wherever it led him. Doing that made him help thousands of people who otherwise might never have been healed or heard about Jesus and His love. The people in Brazil saw, and still see, something about the love of God in the life of Bill, as he cares for them and tells them about Jesus. The reward he wants most of all is to hear Jesus say to him, when he reaches Heaven, "Well done!"

Adapted for children by R. McNally  
(From the Book "Angel of the Amazon" by V. Maxwell, Published by Ambassador Press)  
Shortened for this magazine by M. Ferguson

# A WORD FROM DR. BILL WOODS

I hope you enjoyed the story of Dr. Bill Woods. This was the last part. But Bill's story continues. He is now 84 years old and lives in Belfast. The last years were more difficult for Bill as he went through cancer treatment and surgeries. But that doesn't stop him. He is still very much involved with the work in the state of Acre and even now is planning a trip to Brazil.

We asked him what he would like to say to you, the young readers of his story:



When I was 12 years old I knew I needed to be saved. I indicated my desire to become a Christian but I was given a little card to sign. That didn't make any difference. But 2 years later in a simple prayer I asked the Lord to save me. That decision would change my life even now to my old age. I was the youngest of 5 and I knew my brothers would laugh so I said nothing a few days later my mother said "You got converted for I noticed the difference." Yes, God can save and change a young boy. A few months later at a missionary meeting I said: "Here am I send me." That decision would send me to the Amazon for 58 years. The important decisions in my life were made when I was just 14. Make your decisions while your are still young!



And this is how  
it really looked like...



Bill in Canutama in 1962



Bill's home in Canutama in 1961



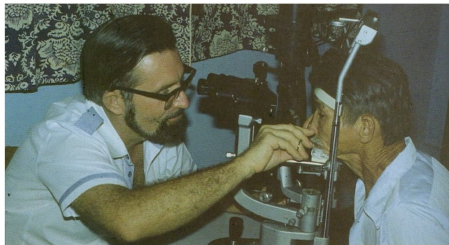
No bridges over the rivers, just barges



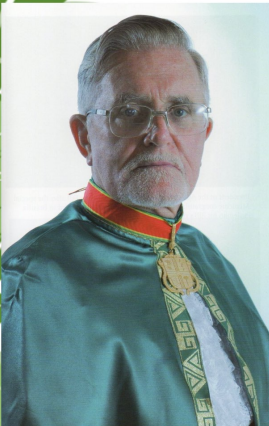
Bill on one of his many boat journeys to see patients



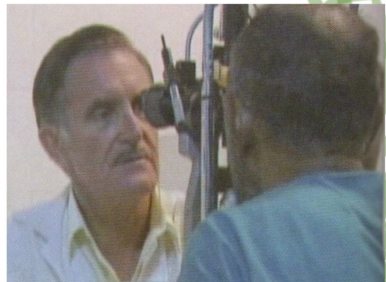
Sometimes he journeyed by water planes



Eye consultation with the portable microscope



Bill got honoured and became a member of the Acre Academy of Medicine



Patient consultation

# ? 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](mailto: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 1950
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](mailto: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.