

September 2017

Dear Friends & Supporters,

Greetings from Boa Vista! I know I have been out of the communication link with most of you for a long time so this is a frail but sincere effort to stay in touch. Thank you for praying for me, even though you haven't heard much or any news.

This time I will need to send this as a general thank you for your gifts of generosity. Only here in the city am I able to receive my mission statements online and I know I have been way behind in expressing my gratitude for your financial help. May the Lord bless and encourage you!

I am hopeful of eventually catching up with correspondence and other personal goals sometime this year!

When I flew back to the village at the end of April with Paulo, Patrícia and little Matias, our team was finally all together for a few months.

Marta was glad to have my help in the school, especially with the energetic class of first graders. Daniel and Janine, have adapted well to jungle life, although they quickly realized how our Yanomami friends can take a toll on our strength and patience. :) They were able to take a short "break" in June to attend and help with Janine's brother's wedding.

We had a variety of visitors in June and July, coming by both plane and boat and the time really flew. There are so many tails of tribal life I wish I had time to share with you!

In July Marta's eldest sister passed away, after battling serious heart problems and it wasn't easy for Marta to be away from her family during that time. At the end of July we came to the city and Marta was able to spend a few weeks with her mom and family in São Paulo.

Meanwhile, the month of August found me in Manaus. A little apprehensive, I joined 8 other fellow-missionaries to take a translation seminar on Galatians. Coy (he and Miriam are semi-retired, living at Peniel, the Brazilian missionary training center, for a while) also came up and it was great to have him with us. Jill Goring and her dedicated secretary Betty Wyma came down from Sanford (as you know, NTM is now called Enthos 360) and were with us for three weeks. Jill enthusiastically reminded and taught us translation principles then we dug deep into Galatians and learned about the importance of Greek grammar connectors. We worked on a rough draft of Paul's letter to the Galatians and the details involving that would fill many pages.

At the beginning of the second week of the seminar Coy had a kidney stone crisis and we were all thankful and relieved for him when one stone (he has more!) was expelled.

Following the Galatians seminar, we had a four-day course on the Paratext, a computer program for Bible translation and it was exciting to see how useful it is in translation work. Our teacher, Cristiano, is from the Kaiwa mission and has done a lot of translating of the Word.

It was a tiring month but also very encouraging. One verse we were definitely challenged with is Galatians 6:9 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Please pray for perseverance, wisdom, health and strength for Bible translators around the world!

Coy is flying to Marari with us on Tuesday to spend a few weeks, which will be really good. So much has happened already this year with the Yanomami people and I want to share just two stories with you, so thanks for taking the time to read this.

Just a little before Marta and I flew out of the village, Ezekiel's daughter Sarita (married recently) had a baby boy who was born very prematurely and their relatives insisted that it was because they broken taboos since Sarita ate food she shouldn't have while pregnant. Well, Ezekiel came with Sarita to Boa Vista and a couple weeks later Safira joined them. While I was in Manaus the little baby became seriously ill with pneumonia and nearly didn't make it but praise the Lord he recovered and gained a little weight, though still only weighs just over 4 pounds. We are praying that this little one will be a testimony of God's grace.

This incident over-lapped with the passing away of Safira's uncle who was the dad of three of the believers: Bene, Raul and Kleoxima (their sister). Ezekiel and family flew back to Marari last Monday because of this death and we are praying for the believers, as the "funeral" rituals are all involved with the Yanomami demonic beliefs. We continue to pray for God's Word to reap a harvest and make a difference in their lives.

Thanks so much for your prayers, as we head back to the jungle. Please keep praying for the Yanomami children and teens as well. They already experience and see so much, as I know kids in the city do as well. May God have mercy on this generation in our tough but full-of-opportunities era.

With humble gratitude,
Brenda