

January 19, 2012

Dear praying friends,

I apologize for how long it has taken me to get this report back to you all. When we ask for prayer for something, I think it is just as important to let everyone know how God answered so we can praise HIM together. So even if this is late, please praise the Lord with us.

We did have our conference starting on the 24th of December and we ended on the 1st of January. We had invited people from all the major river systems around here and made sure we had enough food to feed the amount of people we thought would come. As many of you all know, a few weeks before our conference the gov had a huge get together of the more primitive villages. It ended in disaster with finally 4 people being killed and the entire upper Orinoco and Ocamo river area now embroiled in a shooting war. Due to this war, we felt we had to retract our invitations to all the villages on these rivers as we felt it was too dangerous for people to come from these areas and also, even to travel through the areas. The villages were disappointed but accepted it as they too were very aware of the dangers. To make a long story short, we ended up with people from 10 villages attending. We had a great time with them. The dates, the 24th of December to the 1st of January don't sound like great dates to be having a conference, but to be honest, it actually works very well with the people in this area. They have seen all the parties that the nationals do, and sad to say, many of them are trying to copy that, well, this way, we gave the Christians something at the church to do instead and they really appreciated it. I felt it was a real encouragement to them and to ourselves. At the end of the week, we had 59 people come forward and make a public confession of faith in Christ and ask to be able to follow the Lord in believer's baptism. We were thrilled! When the war broke out, we had almost canceled, but as we were listening to them pray, how thankful I was that we had carried on. Thanks for your prayers for us and the Yanomamö during this time.

Then last week, we were invited to the village of Seducudawä to hold another meeting with them. The young man in charge of the little body of believers up there sent word down that he had been holding meetings with his village telling them all he had learned during the conference and he wanted us to come up for the last day, which was last Sunday. To be honest, I had felt a little put out, as when the invitation was delivered, they told me they had also invited another village to come down and they had told them that I would give them the gas needed to go home plus the gas they needed to send hunters to go hunting for a meal. Well, gas is hard enough to come by when it is my idea, now to have someone else volunteering what tiny little bit I had left was almost too much. But I bit my tongue and we went up after our church service on Sunday and I was, well, I was totally blessed. We had a meeting from 11:30 until almost 5 PM. It was not that Timoteo or I were that longwinded, but after we both finished, first one, then another stood up and either asked the Lord for salvation or prayed to get back in a right relationship with the Lord. I set there almost the entire time, shaken at how close I had been to make an issue of someone having the nerve to volunteer my fuel. Praise the Lord, HE continues to work here, sometimes in spite of ourselves.

This continues to be a difficult place to work with much tension and shortages of almost everything. Rumors abound and right now, we are waiting to go out to town for paper work but the air taxi company that flies up to the little gov airstrip down river from us has not had their air worthiness certificate renewed. The owner told me it is all political and is mainly because they have continued flying for us. Please continue to pray about our lack of our own air support. This remains a huge issue for us and is our most pressing prayer request at this time. Thanks for joining us in this.

I have had a few requests for the link to our speedboat recovery video on YouTube. While it is hard to have to be reminded of this whole fiasco, we still praise the Lord that no one was hurt or worse during this time.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QIFO_QGiXw&feature=share

Once again, we can't tell you how much we are honored to be partnering with you all! Thank you!

Michael, Keila and Mia Dawson

PS. Please don't respond by hitting the reply to this email. If you wish to respond, please use my ulijflyer@gmail.com address. Thanks.

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