

January 26, 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

I begin this letter with sadness as I report to you a tragic accident that happened here in Cosh yesterday afternoon. One of the prominent men of the village was killed yesterday afternoon and it has caused a pall to fall over the whole village. Miguel Silva a younger brother of Octavio Silva had climbed a lasha tree (a type of palm tree that produces a cluster of very delicious fruit (actually the meat of the fruit is more like a vegetable and a great delicacy with the native people). At the insistence of his wife who wanted the fruit to eat he climbed the tree even though he had expressed fear at climbing it. Everyone does not climb the lasha tree, only certain people who have experience in doing so. It is a tall straight palm tree with wicked thorns all up and down the trunk. They have a certain way of climbing it and most of them don't try it. It is usually done by someone who is experienced at it.

Anyway the wife wanted to eat the lasha and finally got her husband, Miguel to climb the tree. I'm not sure just what happened as I have heard several different stories as to what happened. Anyway it seems that he climbed up the tree using some contraption he had made to avoid the thorny trunk of the tree. The weather was not good and a storm began to brew causing the tree to begin to toss and sway. He lost his nerve and some say he fell while others say he tried to jump but landed on the ground on his face and head.

Anyway when we heard the news and got there he was already dead. It is a shock to the village and to us as well. Just Sunday morning he was sitting in church with the rest and now he has gone out into eternity. The family is now angry at the wife for insisting that he climb the tree when he was inexperienced at climbing a lasha tree.

He was the son of the old man who was captain of the village for so many years and who died several years ago still professing his strong belief on Jesus and instructing his children to follow the Lord and meet him in Heaven. Miguel was a Christian and for that we give thanks to the Lord.

Some of his children are out of the village at this time and word has been sent to them of their Father's demise and calling them home. The next few days and weeks will be filled with mourning for the deceased. Please remember this village in prayer at this time. Pray for those who think they have so much time to make a decision, that they will realize the danger of putting it off and know that death can happen to anyone at any time.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. We are having trouble right now getting plane service. Gerald and Susan (our daughter) and her family are here in Cosh waiting as they are having problems getting a flight out. They need to get back to the US as their adopted Yanomamö boy who has cerebral palsy is due back at the children's hospital to get his Botox injections.

He is severely crippled. He is 12 years old. They will appreciate prayers concerning getting flights out of here.

I need you to pray for my left knee which has been very painful to the place that it is getting harder to get around. The thing is that I did not injure it in any way. I went to bed and woke in the night with it hurting very badly, not really thinking it was anything to get concerned about but that has been weeks ago and it is worse now than ever. I just keep hobbling around hoping tomorrow it will miraculously be pain free. I'm thankful that most of my work which involves translation and I have 8 Math students that I do Math notebooks for daily can be done sitting down. Nevertheless my knee does pain even when I'm not using it. So please PRAY!

We appreciate you each one for your prayers and financial support. God Bless!

In Christ,

Millie Dawson

Jmdawsoninfo mailing list

Jmdawsoninfo@mrk.com

<http://mrk.com/mailman/listinfo/jmdawsoninfo>